WORLD / A10

Egyptian passenger ferry sinks in Red Sea; over 1,000 still missing

METRO / A17

Fast-food manager kills himself after fatally shooting boss

Do you have a story to tell about Edsa I? The INQUIRER is looking for those untold stories (photos, too) that contributed, no matter how small, to the first People Power in 1986 that so stunned the world and inspired and emboldened people in chains everywhere to break free. The contributions that will be selected by the editors will be used for the INQUIRER's special celebration of the 20th anniversary of Edsa I. **Send your contribution, with your address and contact number, not later than Feb. 15 to fdelmundo@inquirer.com.ph**

Head of US intelligence commends RP democracy

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED STATES' TOP INTELligence official lauded the Philippines on Thursday for its commitment to democracy, despite political turbulence stemming from accusations that President Macapagal-Arroyo cheated in the 2004 elections.

However, US National Intelligence Director John Negroponte noted that the Arroyo administration was struggling with Moro and communist

HEAD/ A6

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, February 4, 2006 ★★★ 7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 58 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Antiriot cops have new item in arsenal: video cams

By Luige A. del Puerto

BUT INDIE PRODUCERS they're not.

When antiriot cops face militant groups in street protests scheduled in the first quarter of the year, expect them to carry

ANTIRIOT/ A7

BAKA MA-DISCOVER KAYO NYAN !!!

Mining truce proposed

Wow! Peso streaks into 51 territory; GMA ecstatic

By Doris C. Dumlao and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PESO YESTERDAY CONTINued its upward streak, breaching the 52 key barrier against the US dollar to close at 51.91, its highest level in more than three years, boosted by robust investment inflows, weak corporate demand and positive market sentiment on the Philippines.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo was ecstatic over the peso's uptick and immediately took credit for it, citing the ongoing fiscal reforms she had implemented.

"I passed by my monitor, it was 51.96 (to the dollar). Wow!" Ms Arroyo said on television yesterday.

The local currency broke into the 51 level in early morning trade, hit an intra-day high of 51.90 before closing at 51.91, its highest finish since Sept. 11, 2002. It gained another 18 centavos from Thursday's close of 52.09:$1.

A total of $366.5 million changed hands at the spot foreign exchange market Philippine Dealing System.

Tagged as Asia's best performing currency in 2005 when it surged by 6 percent against the US dollar, the peso has now rallied by about 2 percent since ending last year at 53.09:$1.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters sentiment remained positive for the peso thanks to good economic data,

WOW!/ A8

ROGER MARGALLO

HOME IS THE HEROIC: The body of Chief Warrant Officer Ruel Garcia (left) is met upon arrival by an honor guard of 10 US soldiers at the Naia on Thursday night (above). A Fil-Am pilot, he was flying a US Apache helicopter gunship when it was struck by a surface-to-air missile in Iraq last month. He'll be buried on Feb. 7 in his native Obando, Bulacan. ***(Story on Page A2.)***

Palace offer to appease CBCP: No new permits

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Blanche S. Rivera

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo has offered to suspend the issuance of new mining permits to try to appease Roman Catholic bishops strongly opposed to the country's new Mining Act, a top Malacañang official said yesterday.

But mining industry executives warned such a move would make the Philippines a pariah to foreign investors whom Ms Arroyo had aggressively wooed to put their money in the country after the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Mining Act in 2004.

A senior Palace official, who was privy to Ms Arroyo's talks with the bishops in Malacañang Monday night, said the proposed moratorium would not cover the existing mining permits with a total of $6 billion in investments that should keep the local industry busy over the next four years.

Earlier, acting Presidential Chief of Staff Mike Defensor had indicated to reporters during Ms Arroyo's visit to Albay the other day that Malacañang was no longer keen about issuing new mining permits.

The Palace official clarified that nothing was final yet.

"*Pinaplano pa lang yan ... Yan ang* offer *namin sa mga* bishops (That is still in the planning stage. That was our offer to the bishops)," said the official, who asked not to be identified, saying he had not been officially authorized to talk about the meeting.

MINING/ A6

Ombudsman challenged: Probe agri scam

By TJ Burgonio

CHALLENGE TO OMBUDSMAN Merceditas Gutierrez: Investigate agriculture and local government officials involved in the P728-million fertilizer fund scam, and haul them to court.

Senate President Franklin Drilon issued the challenge a day after listening to damning testimonies from Commission on Audit officials and broker Jose Barredo Jr. at a hearing on the scam conducted by the Senate committee on agriculture.

"Considering the gravity of this mind-boggling corruption scheme and the reckless paper trail it left behind for everyone to see, I think it is now incumbent upon the Office of the Ombudsman to take over this case," Drilon said yesterday.

"The evidence is overwhelming. The COA itself said there was massive overpricing of fertilizer at the expense of our poor and starving farmers," he said.

The committee also took further steps to unmask the people behind Feshan Philippines Inc., a major supplier of fertilizer that is suspected to have links with ex-Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Jocjoc" Bolante.

The fertilizer fund, reportedly managed by Bolante, was believed to have been diverted to ensure the victory of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the May 2004 polls.

More than 100 congressmen, 53 governors and 26 town mayors received between P3 million and P10 million each in fertilizer funds from the DA shortly before the elections, COA records showed.

Bolante has been missing since last year.

Drilon said the committee was

OMBUDSMAN/ A6

GMA GOES TO MARKET with Vice President Noli (behind is Rep. Mat Defensor) to monitor the prices of basic goods following the implementation of an additional 2 percent in the VAT rate. At the Nepa-Q Mart, she blames the rising cost of sugar to hoarders who, she says, will be hunted down by the NBI. The country will also import sugar as soon as possible, Ms Arroyo discloses, to bring down its price.

Finally, 2 aging RP sisters are citizens of Japan

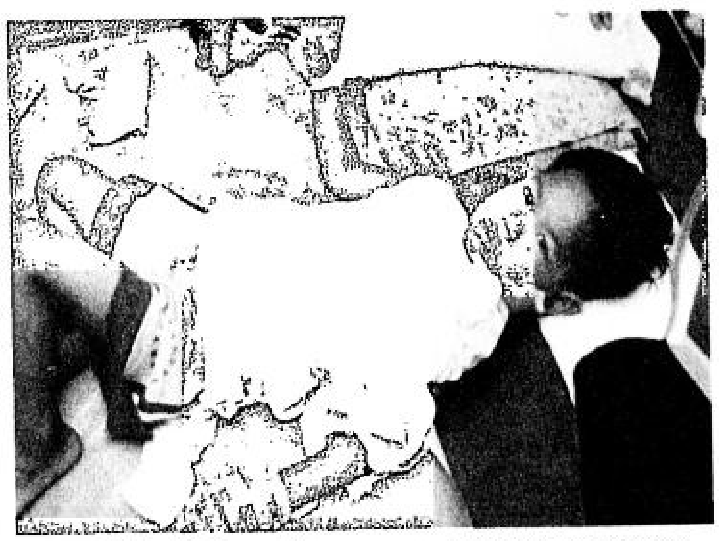
TOKYO—TWO ELDERLY SISTERS IN THE Philippines born to a Japanese father before World War II expressed joy Friday after a court granted them Japanese nationality in an unprecedented case.

Some 2,500 children of Japanese origin were left in the Philippines after the war, facing discrimination and poverty with many never knowing the names of their fathers.

Tokyo Family Court on Thursday granted nationality to two Japanese-Filipinas for the first time. In contrast, Japan has long recognized the rights of children of Japanese origin left behind in China after the war.

"I've been waiting for this news for a long time," said Carmen Ebe, 82, whose Japanese name is Kazuko Idebata, in a statement from Davao City.

FINALLY/ A6



FOUR-YEAR-OLD Jason Patenga recuperates in hospital after he survived the ruthless attack on his family in Barangay Liang in Patikul, Sulu. His two other siblings were also wounded. AFP

Massacre of 6 moves Sulu villagers to tears

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

PATIKUL, SULU—THEY WERE used to violence but the sight of the bullet-riddled body of a baby girl lying on top of her equally dead mother was too much and the residents could not help but cry.

The mother and child were among six people killed in Barangay Liang in Patikul early dawn yesterday in the latest upsurge of violence in Sulu, where Muslim rebels, terrorists and criminal gangs roam, and family feuds are settled with guns.

"This was very inhuman," a woman resident said. Another neighbor just kept silent but also cried, as though to blur the sight of the gruesome scene.

Even journalists who had been to many gory scenes of violence could not control their emotions.

Police investigator SPO2 Sangkula Hussin said the gunmen must have been very an-

MASSACRE / A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers while Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/02/04/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Second FRONTPAGE

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Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

ERC to appeal SC decision

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION intends to appeal a Supreme Court decision nullifying its order approving a 13.27-centavo per kilowatt hour increase in the generation charge that the Manila Electric Co. levies on its customers.

ERC chair Rodolfo Albano Jr. said the high tribunal's order had implications beyond just Meralco.

"This will cause a big confusion in the ERC since we've already issued so many orders for the energy industry," he said in a telephone interview.

Albano said the courts were taking away the right of the ERC, the state power regulator, to issue rules and regulations for the energy industry.

"We're a quasi-judicial and quasi-legislative body," he said, adding that as soon as it receives the SC order, the ERC would file an appeal.

The high court on Thursday nullified the ERC's June 2, 2004 order approving a second Meralco rate hike petition under the generation rate adjustment mechanism (GRAM) which effectively allowed the Lopez Group-led distribution utility to recover an average 13.27 centavos per kWh from its customers.

The GRAM is an automatic cost recovery mechanism that allows Meralco to pass on to its customers fluctuations in the cost of the power that it buys from the state-run power generator, the National Power Corp., and its own independent power producers.

Depending on the actual purchased power costs for a particular quarter, the GRAM could mean either a cost recovery from, or a refund to, electricity consumers.

Elpi Cuna Jr., Meralco's vice president for corporate communications, explained that under the GRAM mechanism, Meralco had accumulated three months' worth of payments to its power suppliers. It had advanced the amount while waiting a few months before attempting to recover these costs from its customers.

He said Meralco's GRAM applications went through the stringent scrutiny of the ERC and were not approved on a whim.

The SC cited Meralco's failure to publish its GRAM application in a newspaper of general circulation as the main reason for the decision to void the ERC order.

While the implementing rules of the GRAM do not require publication of GRAM applications, the SC said these GRAM implementing rules were also not published in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Seizing on this argument, Cuna asked whether Meralco's first GRAM application, which resulted in a rate reduction of 21.34 centavos per kWh, should also be revoked.

"As there was also no publication of that application, will that also be similarly revoked?" he said.

He said the SC decision on Meralco's second GRAM could affect the approved filings for an increase by Napocor and other power distributors, as the requisite publication of their GRAM applications were similarly not followed. *With reports from Armand N. Nocum and Jerome Aning*

Body of Fil-Am pilot arrives; another one dies

By Volt Contreras and Nikko Dizon

JUST HOURS AFTER THE BODY of a Filipino-American soldier killed in Iraq arrived in Manila for burial, the Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday announced the death of another Fil-Am serving in the US military in that war-torn country.

Marine Pvt. Lewis Thomas Duquez Calapini, 21, died in a vehicular accident last Jan. 23 in Al Taqaddum, Iraq, the DFA said, quoting a Philippine consulate report from Honolulu where the soldier's family is based.

Calapini is the fourth Fil-Am serviceman to die in Iraq since December and will be buried on Feb. 6 at the Hawaii Veterans Cemetery, DFA said.

The announcement came hours after the body of Chief Warrant Officer Ruel Garcia, who was killed in action in Iraq last month, arrived late Thursday night at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport where his flag-draped casket was met by an honor guard of 10 American soldiers.

After saluting the casket, the Americans escorted Garcia's remains to his hometown, Obando, Bulacan, passing by a funeral home in Malabon where a mortician inspected the body and workers carefully re-draped the US flag on the gray casket, smoothing out every single crease.

According to the foreign office, Calapini was born in Bangui, Ilocos Norte to Orencio and Helen Grace Calapini. He attended Waipahu High School in Hawaii and joined the Marines in May 2004.

He was assigned to Camp Lejuene in North Carolina and was on his second deployment to Iraq with the Anti-Terrorism Batallion, 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, at the time of the accident.

Garcia, 34, and his co-pilot died in a crash after a surface-to-air missile struck their AH Apache helicopter gunship last Jan. 16 in Taji, Iraq. His body was first flown home to his Filipino wife, Apple, in Fort Hood, Texas, where his unit, the US Army's 4th Infantry Division, is based.

Apple arrived in Manila Wednesday night, Garcia's father, Rosendo, told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview from Obando yesterday. The couple had been married only about a year and were still childless, he said.

The elder Garcia said his son was scheduled to be buried on Feb, 7 at the Polo Memorial Park.

Two other Fil-Am US troopers were killed in separate rebel attacks in Iraq last December, namely Spc. Peter Navarro, 20, and Sgt. Myla Maravillosa, 24. The latter was buried last month in her hometown of Inabanga, Bohol. *With Nancy C. Carvajal*

India leader begins 4-day state visit

INDIAN PRESIDENT APJ ABDUL Kalam arrived in Manila yesterday for a four-day state visit that would include talks with President Macapagal-Arroyo on bilateral trade and investments.

Kalam flew in aboard an Air India chartered jet from Singapore, the first leg of a three-nation East Asian tour, and was met at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) by Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and Philippine Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes.

This is the first time in 15 years that an Indian head of state is visiting the Philippines.

Also at the airport to meet Kalam were Philippine Ambassador to India Laura del Rosario, presidential adviser Roberto Pagdanganan, and Indian Ambassador to the Philippines Navrekha Sharma.

Kalam was scheduled to visit the University of the Philippines later Friday before meeting Ms Arroyo this morning at Malacañang, where the two were expected to sign a number of bilateral agreements. *Nikko Dizon with AFP, AP reports*

NPA frees captive Air Force major

By Tonette Orejas and Dona Pazzibugan

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Communist rebels last night released to Sen. Rodolfo Biazon an Air Force major they had held captive for more than seven months.

Maj. Neptune Eliquin, a noncombat officer, was in good physical condition, Biazon said shortly after the officer was handed over to him at an undisclosed place.

"I have just gotten off a boat," Biazon told the INQUIRER, declining to give details of the release until he had brought Eliquin over to the Armed Forces headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

Gregorio Rosal, spokesperson for the Communist Party of the Philippines, said in a statement that Eliquin was handed over to Biazon and Church officials in a coastal area in Central Luzon in response to appeals by Eliquin's family and other military officers opposed to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Rosal said the release was "an act of goodwill and offer of friendship and cooperation by the CPP, NPA and revolutionary movement to anti-Arroyo military and police officers and men."

The 49-year-old officer, who belonged to the 355th Engineering Wing based at the Basa Air Base in Floridablanca, Pampanga, was snatched at a guerrilla checkpoint on July 2 while he was on his way to his farm near the boundary of Bataan.

Eliquin was the second prisoner released by the New People's Army since January. *With a report from Nikko Dizon, AP*

Brunei cops arrest 5 RP workers for Pinay's murder

POLICE IN BRUNEI HAVE HELD five Filipinos and a Bruneian as murder suspects after a Filipino woman was found dead last Jan. 28, the Department of Foreign Affairs reported yesterday.

The remains of Jovita Zapanta, wrapped in plastic and fabric, were discovered at a secluded public area in Bendar Seri Begawan, Brunei's capital.

Pathologists have confirmed she died either on Jan. 26 or 27, while police surmised that the actual killing was done elsewhere, the DFA said. *Volt Contreras*

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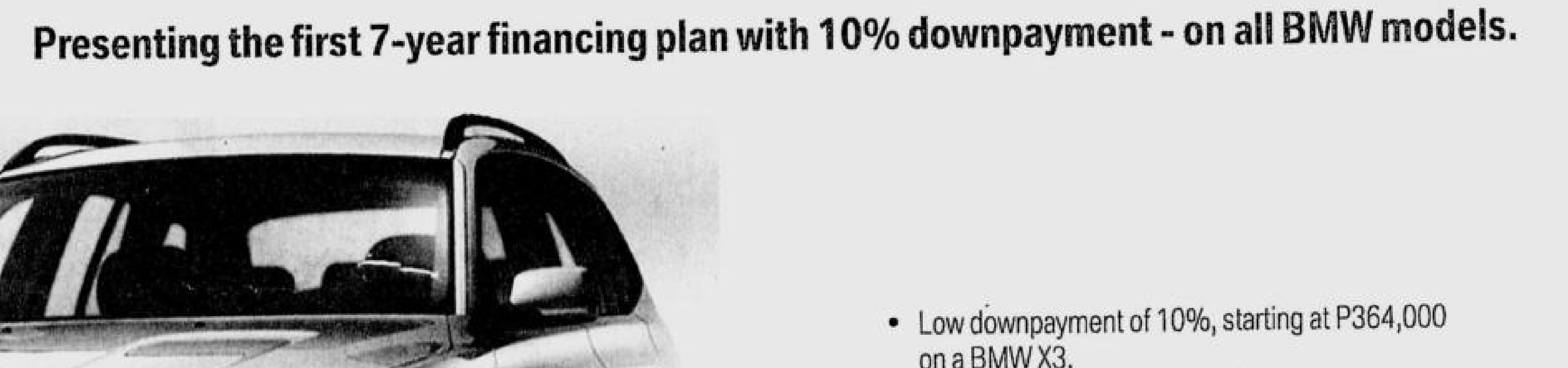

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Gov't, MILF begin new round of talks

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AND MUSlim separatist rebels head into a new round of peace talks next week with cautious optimism as negotiations to end nearly 40 years of violence enter a make-or-break phase.

A peace deal for Muslim areas in the South is crucial to lifting its people from poverty, unearthing mineral wealth and easing investor concerns about a country seen as a weak link in the war against terrorism.

The conflict with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has killed more than 120,000 people, although a truce has held since July 2003 as the peace talks progressed.

The two sides declared a breakthrough at talks last September after reaching a consensus on the issue of ancestral domain, or areas recognized as part of a Muslim homeland.

But there has so far been little progress on other issues such as the form of government for the homeland and the post-conflict future of the MILF's 12,000 guerrillas.

"We are taking the issues one at a time," a member of the government's peace panel told Reuters.

"In any negotiations, you can't really predict the outcome.

We're very optimistic but we're careful in painting a very rosy picture of the talks." In the meetings on Monday and Tuesday in Malaysia, the two sides will flesh out details of the proposed ancestral homeland, the final agenda in talks that began in 1997, the official said.

"We cannot finish everything in just two days," he said.

"We just hope the meetings would help smooth the road ahead. We've covered more than half of the journey and we're getting closer to our goal of a lasting peace in the south."

Analysts say a peace deal with the MILF would be a major step in developing the resource-rich south and improving the overall security and investment climate in the Philippines.

Reuters

FACT BOX

- THE MILF was organized in 1984, six years after a group of fundamentalist Muslims led by an Islamic cleric, Salamat Hashim, broke away from the secular MNLF.
- The 12,000-member MILF began peace talks with the government in January 1997, four months after the MNLF signed a peace deal brokered by Indonesia.
- Before entering into negotiations, the MILF said it was fighting for an independent Islamic state in the South.
- The talks collapsed in June 2000 when President Joseph Estrada ordered an all-out offensive against MILF strongholds in the South.
- In March 2001, the MILF agreed to return to peace talks with the new government of President Macapagal-Arroyo.
- A military assault on the ancestral home of MILF leader Hashim stalled the negotiations in February 2003.
- A truce has been observed, despite some sporadic clashes, since July 2003 as the peace talks continued.
- In a meeting at Kuala Lumpur in September 2005, Manila and the MILF announced a breakthrough, agreeing on 25 "consensus points" on the issue of an ancestral homeland for four million Muslims in the South.

Reuters

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Ombudsman challenged: Probe agri scam

From page A1

willing to turn over the documents and testimonial evidence gathered during its six hearings to anti-graft prosecutors for scrutiny and evaluation so Gutierrez could start her own investigation.

He said the Ombudsman did not have to wait for the committee to wrap up the inquiry before starting its own probe. "It is the principal mandate of the Ombudsman to look into cases like this," he said.

At Thursday's hearing, COA officials confirmed that the fertilizer used in the Department of Agriculture's Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) program was overpriced by at least P127 million.

In his own testimony, Feshan broker Barredo exposed the alleged conspiracy between DA and local government officials to skim off the fund for liquid fertilizer.

Drilon voiced confidence that the Ombudsman would prosecute the officials involved in the fertilizer scam.

"I remember that when Ombudsman Gutierrez assumed office, she vowed that she would spare no one in the campaign against corruption in government. I am confident she will be true to her word," he said.

Document search

The committee on agriculture, chaired by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., has asked the Bureau of Internal Revenue for copies of the list of Feshan's board of directors and articles of incorporation, a staff member said.

Magsaysay said in a phone interview that the same documents had to be requested from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"We will also ask the [National Bureau of Investigation] to help us look for the [Feshan directors] so they can explain their role [in the case]," he said.

The senator also said Barredo's testimony showed that Feshan was used by its officials to launder money.

Barredo had said Feshan supplied the fertilizer as well as the "commissions," which he personally delivered to certain congressmen, governors and mayors.

A staff member of the committee on agriculture said it had received information that Feshan was "a partnership" between Bolante and Maritess "Tess" Aytona, whom the committee had tried in vain to find.

Bolante and Aytona are said to be related.

Barredo said he worked with Aytona between January and April 2004. He said she took care of getting the required papers signed by DA officials, and having the necessary funds and the commissions released.

Magsaysay said the committee would also look into the records of other firms contracted to supply fertilizer under the GMA program in 2004.

"Who cornered the bulk of the contracts? We should establish that," he said.

Doing a Garcillano

Malacañang is hoping that Bolante would follow ex-Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano's lead by coming out of hiding.

"We can only hope that Jocjoc Bolante shows up because he is the only one who can explain this," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters.

"Eventually, he should present himself ... because it appears he knows what happened," Bunye said.

Garcillano made himself scarce for months when the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal broke out in June. He surfaced to much media fanfare in December to testify at a House inquiry.

Bunye said Malacañang was not opposed to the Senate's continued investigation of Bolante and the alleged misuse of fertilizer funds to boost Ms Arroyo's election campaign.

"We respect the process that is ongoing. This is within the prerogative of the Senate," he said.

Sooner or later

Even the President's allies in the House said Bolante should show up to testify at the Senate inquiry.

Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon, chair of the House committee on agriculture and food, expressed the belief that Bolante would present himself to the Senate if he was convinced that he would be given "fair treatment."

"He'd come out, sooner or later. He must be afraid, though, that he cannot hope to get a fair shake in the anti-administration Senate," Macarambon said.

"The bounty puts a lot of pressure on Bolante and may cause him to hide even more in fear for his life as well as his family's safety," Macarambon said.

Malabon-Navotas Rep. Federico Sandoval, a vice chair of the House committee on appropriations, said members of the majority were joining the Senate call for Bolante to "surface and face the investigation."

"Congressmen also want the issue cleared as soon as possible," Sandoval said.

Bolante's continued disappearance is damaging to Ms Arroyo herself, according to former President Fidel Ramos.

"He (Bolante) is trying to play coy. He is damaging the President," Ramos said at a press conference yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport shortly before leaving for Bangladesh to address graduating students of the American International University. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Christine O. Avendaño, Norman Bordadora, Nikko Dizon and Volt Contreras*

Finally, 2 aging RP sisters are citizens of Japan

From page A1

Her 77-year-old sister Sanay Lumbayon, or Sanae Idebata, said in the statement, "I'm very happy and so are my children. I want to go back to Japan if I have money."

The sisters' father immigrated to the Philippines and in 1922 married a local woman. He returned to Japan before World War II but did not go back to the Philippines after the war ended in 1945. He later married a Japanese woman.

The sisters had long hidden their Japanese origins to avoid discrimination but filed applications in 2004 with the support of activists.

They visited Japan in May for the first and only time to attend a court hearing on their case and visit former schoolmates.

The sisters will soon fill out a form to create records in Japan, a prerequisite to attaining the rights of Japanese nationals. The court decision also paves the way for the women's children to seek Japanese citizenship.

About 800 more people are in the same situation as the Idebatas, with Japan not recognizing their nationality, according to the Philippine Nikkeijin Legal Support Center, an activist group.

At least eight more cases are before the Tokyo court. *AFP*

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Administration solons bewail 'smear job'

By Michael Lim Ubac

ADMINISTRATION CONGRESSMEN LED BY House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles assailed senators for supposedly abetting a "smear campaign" against them.

Referring to the inquiry into the fertilizer fund scam, Nograles said the Senate had become "a forum for black propaganda."

"What I wish to stress here is that the [senators] should observe basic inter-parliamentary courtesy. We have co-equal status with them. It is unfortunate that they have now become a venue to smear administration congressmen," Nograles said, adding:

"The Senate is not content with bashing the President. Now they want to bash the House as well."

To show that they were also eager to get to the bottom of the allegations in connection with the scam, a number of congressmen said they would put up a reward for information leading to the arrest of former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante.

Representatives Florencio Noel, Rodolfo Plaza, Roilo Golez and Rozzano Biazon agreed to shell out P5,000 each to start the fund.

They said they would pass the hat to other House members on Monday.

Nograles, who represents the first district of Davao City, said it was "unseemly" for the Senate committee on agriculture to ignore the denials issued by administration congressmen vis-a-vis the accusations made in November by "a self-confessed fixer of Department of Agriculture projects."

In a statement, Lakas Representatives Monico Puentevella (Bacolod City) and Reylina Nicolas (Bulacan) said it was "very clear" from Jose Barredo Jr.'s testimony on Thursday that he was "under the direction of opposition handlers and scriptwriters to target House members who have been staunchly defending the administration."

Both Puentevella and Nicolas said they were never involved in any misuse of the DA funds.

Puentevella, chair of the House committee on transportation, said the Senate inquiry was "part of a systematic attack" on allies of the President and on government institutions.

Puentevella warned Barredo to be prepared to prove his charges.

He added: "Barredo's claims are an outright lie. The truth is, my constituents received the fertilizers, which went through the normal procurement process in the regional and city offices of the DA."

Head of US intelligence ...

From page A1

rebellions as well as terrorism in the south.

Testifying in a relatively rare public session before the Senate intelligence committee, Negroponte said Southeast Asia's vibrant emerging democracies were tormented by terrorism, crushing poverty, ethnic and religious strife, and the risk of bird flu.

But he said that while terrorists connected to the al-Qaida terror group were present in many of the region's countries, their growth had been limited by effective government policies.

Burma hit

Negroponte, a former ambassador to the Philippines, criticized the military-led government of Burma (Myanmar) as a dictatorship, and said Cambodia had backed away from democratic and human rights progress made in the last decade.

He praised Indonesia's democracy, saying President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono had reformed the military and the economy, rooted out corruption, and worked toward peace in the troubled Aceh province.

Yudhoyono, who in 2004 assumed power in Indonesia's first direct presidential election after decades of brutal dictatorship, recently ordered the military to play a greater role in fighting terrorism in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

Negroponte noted that Indonesian authorities had arrested or killed members of the al-Qaida-linked terror group Jemaah Islamiyah, although that organization "remains a tough foe."

He said Thailand was also working to find "a formula to contain violence" by separatist groups in southern provinces, noting evidence of stronger organization and more lethal and brutal tactics by the separatists last year.

More than 1,200 people have died in the past two years in violence in Thailand's Muslim-dominated southern provinces. *AP*

Mining truce proposed

From page A1

The official said the proposed moratorium on new permits for both large- and small-scale mining would be in place until the government and the Church had agreed on a fool-proof system to ensure the protection of local communities—specifically the indigenous people—and the environment.

The official said suspending the issuance of mining permits would immediately address the bishops' concerns on the entry of mining firms in greenfield areas.

This could mean limiting mining activity in areas that have been traditional hosts to these activity, the official said.

Country's credibility

Last Sunday, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines issued a pastoral statement calling for the repeal of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, saying that it "destroys life."

The bishops also called for the cancellation of all approved mining concessions and the junking of pending applications.

Patrick Caoile, treasurer of the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association, said the Philippines' credibility would take a hit with the plan to impose a permits' moratorium.

"The President went around the globe inviting mining companies supposedly with open arms to explore one of the richest mineral countries in the world. We'd become a pariah if we tell them that no permits will be given," Caoile said.

A source from the Bicol group of bishops said that a closer look at the data released by Malacañang to hype the mining industry would show that mining was just a filler in the country's investment strategy not worth the social costs and political risks.

New jobs, more taxes

By 2010, new mining projects would have generated 43,635 jobs, P27 billion in new taxes, P684 million for social development funds and P1.7 billion in royalties for the indigenous people. The government estimated that mining projects would bring in P240 billion in investments up to 2010.

However, the Church group said only 20 percent of this would remain in the country as the bulk would go to the payment of project loans and repatriation to parent companies.

The Church has deemed the 20-percent return as too modest for an extractive, non-repeating resource business.

Main example

The Rapu-Rapu mining incident has become the Church's main exhibit of possible environmental disasters. The two cyanide spills on the island has caused fishkills and reportedly endangered Albay's tourism potential.

Caoile said the Rapu-Rapu controversy could have been averted had the mining firm Lafayette taken in a local contractor to help build their tailings dam.

"They used an all-Australian team, including equipment and technology. Australia does not have that much rainfall as the Philippines and that's just one of the biggest differences that they did not take into consideration," Caoile said.

No need for rush

In his talk with reporters in Albay, Defensor said that what the Palace had told the bishops was "*ayusin na lang natin yung* existing (permits)"—let's make the existing permits work. "Then let's not approve anything anymore," Defensor said, adding this was basically their message to the bishops.

"Let's make do of them. Let's not anymore approve permits," Defensor said. "We have enough now for the country to move the economy. Let's not rush things. Let us perfect what we have now."

40 concessions under review

At least 40 proposed mining concessions covering 1.6 million hectares are being reviewed by the government to check if the concession areas overlapped with any protected areas and timber concessions, Environment Undersecretary for Mining Deinrado Dimalibot said yesterday.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has sent out intents to cancel to 40 companies applying for Financial and Technical Assistance Agreements (FTAAs) as early as September last year.

"We are also doing a reassessment of the viability of those areas for mining and the social acceptability of the projects, if the people really agreed to the projects," Dimalibot said in an interview.

He said that while the Mines and Geosciences Bureau continued to accept applications for mining concessions, the government was not inclined to approve more applications soon.

"There is that trend because the President is already satisfied with the 24 priority mining project sites," Dimalibot said.

Hopes on mining

The administration is banking on the revitalized mining industry to prop up the economy, identifying 24 mine-rich areas that the government is promoting on its mining road shows abroad.

The government had suspended the processing of the 40 FTAA applications because of the Supreme Court case that contested the provision of the Mining Act allowing full foreign ownership in mining projects.

Dimalibot said the DENR wanted to see if the firms were still interested in pursuing their mining applications and if they had complied with the documentary requirements.

Four of the 40 FTAA applications under review have foreign partners, Dimalibot said. Another 19 FTAA applications are pending with the MGB, the agency tasked to review and process all mining applications. *With a report from PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Antiriot cops have new item in arsenal: video cams

From page A1

not only batons and shields but also video cameras.

Cops have learned to use the video camera as a means to protect themselves from accusations of violating human rights during dispersal operations, Director Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, said yesterday.

Querol said that while cops used to depend on the "kind-heartedness" of people taking videos of mass actions to give them a copy, now they would carry a camera for every crowd-control deployment.

"In that way, we can review the tapes on our own and let the pictures speak for themselves, rather than just listen to accounts, which [carry] biases," he said.

Video vs video

But while police videos of mass actions are intended mostly for internal use, they can be shown to the public in cases where authorities feel that police action was inaccurately depicted by protesters or the media.

"If the demonstrators show a video, then we can also show our own video. They would have to prove that our video is inaccurate," Querol said when asked if the Philippine National Police would not use the video for propaganda work.

He said this was also why the Commission on Human Rights should take its own video of a mass action, "and let the pictures speak."

He said a video could serve as "a good shield" against "unfounded accusations."

According to Querol, the one thing police will not do is "alter" a video to hide or manufacture facts.

CPR policy

"In case of a shooting [incident], you'd erase the gun so that only the hand shows. That we will not do," he said, adding:

"Why would we engage in propaganda?"

Last year, the PNP and protesters accused each other of initiating violence during mass actions, especially in light of the administration's "calibrated preemptive response" policy.

Accusations that police were quick to use force against protesters prompted the CHR to look into the dispersal operations.

As a result, police started taking videos of mass actions late last year.

One such video, of a dispersal operation near Mendiola in Manila, showed a man picking up a gun. The man turned out to be a security officer of Sen. Jamby Madrigal.

The militant groups that spearheaded mass actions in 2005 are planning to launch more street protests this year to press their campaign for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Emotional pressure

The PNP yesterday warned militant groups against taking to the streets without rally permits. It said Batas Pambansa 880 would be firmly enforced against illegal demonstrations.

Querol said he had advised PNP ground commanders to review the rules on dealing with protesters, and to ensure their men's psychological preparation.

They should "review their procedures to see to it that our people will not succumb to emotional pressure," he said. "I'm also going to give instructions to district directors to touch base with the rally organizers."

QUEROL: We have to protect our cops from charges of human rights violations.

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Massacre of 6 moves Sulu villagers ...

From page A1

gry at the victims but the reason for the killings remained unclear.

Like most villagers, the victims were unarmed.

"They were ruthless," another villager said, looking at the bodies.

The shooting lasted for about 10 minutes, police said, judging from the number of empty shells recovered.

Villagers told the INQUIRER that they could not understand why such an incident could happen in their community, which is practically surrounded by military camps.

The close-knit community of tattered houses and makeshift shanties lies near the headquarters of the 3rd Marine Brigade. Another military installation is about 500 meters away.

"All the angles are being looked at. We cannot yet make any conclusions," Col. Domingo Tutaan of the military's Southern Command said by telephone from Jolo, the Associated Press reported.

Houses strafed

Unlicensed firearms are easy to obtain in the Sulu area.

The killings took place a week after eight people were killed by five gunmen who strafed a billiard hall in Balabagan, Lanao del Sur.

Police said the Balabagan attack was apparently part of a *rido* (family feud) as a son of one of the alleged assailants was killed in the same town last month.

The attack occurred at about 1 a.m. when some 20 unidentified men strafed the houses of the Patenga, Fontanilla and Casipong families in Barangay Liang, according to Senior Supt. Ajura Asirim, police provincial director.

"The suspects used high-powered firearms based on the type of shells our investigators recovered from the scene. They also used grenade launchers although these failed to hit the houses," Asirim said.

The victims

Killed were 8-month-old Melanie and her mother Sulma, 35, her father Leonardo, 40; Aurelio Fontanilla, 50; Pedro Casipong, 56, and his daughter Emma, 16.

Injured in the Patenga household were Jason, 4; Susan, 11 and Alkamar, 3.

Wounded in the Fontanilla family was Jennifer, 22. Among the Casipongs, housewife Lucrecia, 53, was wounded.

Asirim said the attackers had apparently deliberately targeted the victims because minutes before the incident, the armed men even asked directions from neighbors.

Deep anger

"This is what we are trying to discern so we could uncover the motive and possibly, the identities of the suspects," he said.

Asirim agreed with Hussin's observation that the suspects must have harbored deep grudges against the victims because they made sure the victims were dead.

Lucrecia Casipong said the firing was relentless.

She said that during the shooting, her main concern was the safety of her family.

"I crawled over to Emma [her daughter] and hugged her because I thought she must be very scared already. But then I noticed she wasn't moving and blood was all over her. It was then I realized she was dead," she said.

Bullets fly

As bullets flew over her head, Lucrecia said she crawled again toward her husband to tell him about Emma.

But he, too, was dead.

When the firing ended, Lucrecia said she heard Susan crying for help. She yelled back and told her she could not go to her because her husband and daughter were dead.

Lucrecia said it was so dark and she lay on her belly for a long time until she decided it was safe to move around.

No help came

"I cried hard for help too but nobody dared come," she said.

It was only at sunrise that neighbors, some living just 10 meters away, came over.

Residents said they did not come because they were so scared.

"Besides, what can we do? We do not have weapons," a man said.

Jennifer Fontanilla, who said she survived the attack by hiding under her bed, told government-run Radyo ng Bayan that before the shooting, the armed men roused them from sleep and demanded to know if they were Christians or Muslims, the AP said.

Gunmen returned

Asirim said he learned Marines had come but they failed to catch up with the killers.

"We want to get to the bottom of this incident," he said.

The INQUIRER learned that the area where the victims lived belongs to the Vicariate of Jolo. It was the late Bishop Benjamin de Jesus who had asked the villagers to live there.

The violence came less than three weeks before a small group of 250 US soldiers deploy on Jolo island for joint military exercises.

About 5,000 US troops are to take part in the annual "Balikatan" war games to be conducted throughout the Philippines. *With reports from Ed General, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and INQUIRER wires*

Wow! Peso streaks into 51 territory; GMA ecstatic

From page A1

foreign inflows and sustained fiscal reforms.

"Market sentiment continues to be positive for the peso, given the good macroeconomic figures, actual and expected foreign exchange inflows and sustained fiscal reforms," Tetangco said.

Aside from the peso, Malacañang also basked in the vote of confidence by leading foreign investment groups amid public protests against the higher value added tax rate of 12 percent starting Feb. 1.

Fiscal reforms

Ms Arroyo felt vindicated by her pursuit of fiscal reforms with the vote of approval given by the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS), the largest American pension fund, which upgraded the country's rating. "It was only a few months ago that we were close to being stricken off their list. But now, it gave us a higher rating compared to Malaysia, China, Russia and India," the President said.

In the same TV forum, Philippine Ambassador to the US Alberto del Rosario said CalPERS move was like a "stamp of good housekeeping" because most foreign investors take their cue from CalPERS for "leadership in setting criteria and establishing countries they would be investing in."

Equity offerings

Jose Emmanuel Hilado, treasurer at BDO Private Bank and president of foreign exchange association ACI Philippines, said the peso was drawing strength from various equity offerings in the pipeline, including an ongoing initial public offering of First Gen Corp., the primary holding company for the power generation and energy-related businesses of the Lopez Group.

First Gen is the largest Filipino-owned and-controlled independent power producer in the country, with an installed capacity of 1,727 megawatts. It holds interest in four operating power generation projects.

Hilado said the local currency was likewise being perked up by foreign inflows seen to come from another equity offering by the Gokongweis' Universal Robina Corp. and the global depositary receipts in Banco de Oro Universal Bank issued by SM Investments Corp.

Lack of corporate demand

"It's still the inflows and all the good news that we have, coupled with lack of corporate demand. It shows that the uptrend is intact," Hilado said.

After breaking past the 52:$1 barrier, he said the market's next target would be 51.80 and then 51.50.

However, Hilado said the US dollar was now oversold and the market was bound for a correction favoring the greenback soon. He added that after the long Christmas season, corporate demand would likely pick up soon.

Over the near term, he said the peso would likely trade between a range of 51.50 and 52.80 to the US dollar.

Hilado agreed that foreign investors would be more attracted to local equities rather than bonds this year.

"If interest rates remain where they are now, equities will outperform fixed income," Hilado said.

Improved country rating

Philippine equities likewise got a psychological boost following an improved country rating given by Wilshire Associates, the consulting firm of the California Public Employees Retirement System.

The country's score was raised from 2 to 2.13, the highest score it ever achieved. The Philippines' ranking among 26 other emerging markets was likewise upgraded to 14th from 18th last year, even edging out Malaysia, China, Russia and India.

"It is a recognition of the government's fiscal and other economic reforms that should make the Philippines attractive to investors," Tetangco said.

The government's investor relations officer, Rene Pizarro said the favorable ratings would take current investor and market optimism to a higher level.

"This should favor more investment flows into the country as risk perception eases and a greater sense of political stability and consistency among investors ensues," Pizarro said.

"As a result, growth outlook can only be better in the medium term, generating more investments, creating more jobs and alleviating poverty," he said.

Results-driven

Pizarro said this boosted the administration's economic governance profile as "reform-focused" and "results-driven."

The Philippines was almost stricken off CalPERS' radar screen in 2004 if not for the intense lobbying made by a local delegation which contested the ratings in some of the categories used by Wilshire.

"It affirms that we're back on the radar screen of most investors particularly our foreign counterparts," said stock analyst Astro del Castillo, managing director at First Grade Holdings.

"There are more reasons for them to upgrade their outlook and encourage their investors to put more investments in the Philippines than stay out. The only cause of uncertainty now is the volatility of oil prices," he said.

Bond yields

Analysts said Southeast Asian currencies are best placed to ride out the dollar's rally against major currencies because bond yields in the region are among the highest in Asia.

"At this point I like the Southeast Asians more than the NIE currencies," said DBS Bank currency strategist Philip Wee.

NIE, or newly industrialized economies, is a term used by the World Bank and analysts to describe South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong. The rest of Asia, barring Japan, is referred to as developing economies.

Tetangco said the peso was appreciating versus the US dollar alongside other currencies in the Asean region but at a lower volatility rate.

Lower end of volatility

Year-to-date, he said the peso has appreciated by 2.3 percent versus the greenback while the Thai baht has risen by 3.9 percent, Indonesian rupiah, 5.7 percent and Singapore dollar, 2 percent.

"Now in terms of volatility which would show you whether the movements are too sharp or not, the peso is at the lower end of volatility compared to other currencies," he said.

He said the peso's volatility rate since the start of the year was only at 0.48 percent as against the baht's 1.37 percent, rupiah's 1.26 percent and Singapore dollar's 0.69 percent.

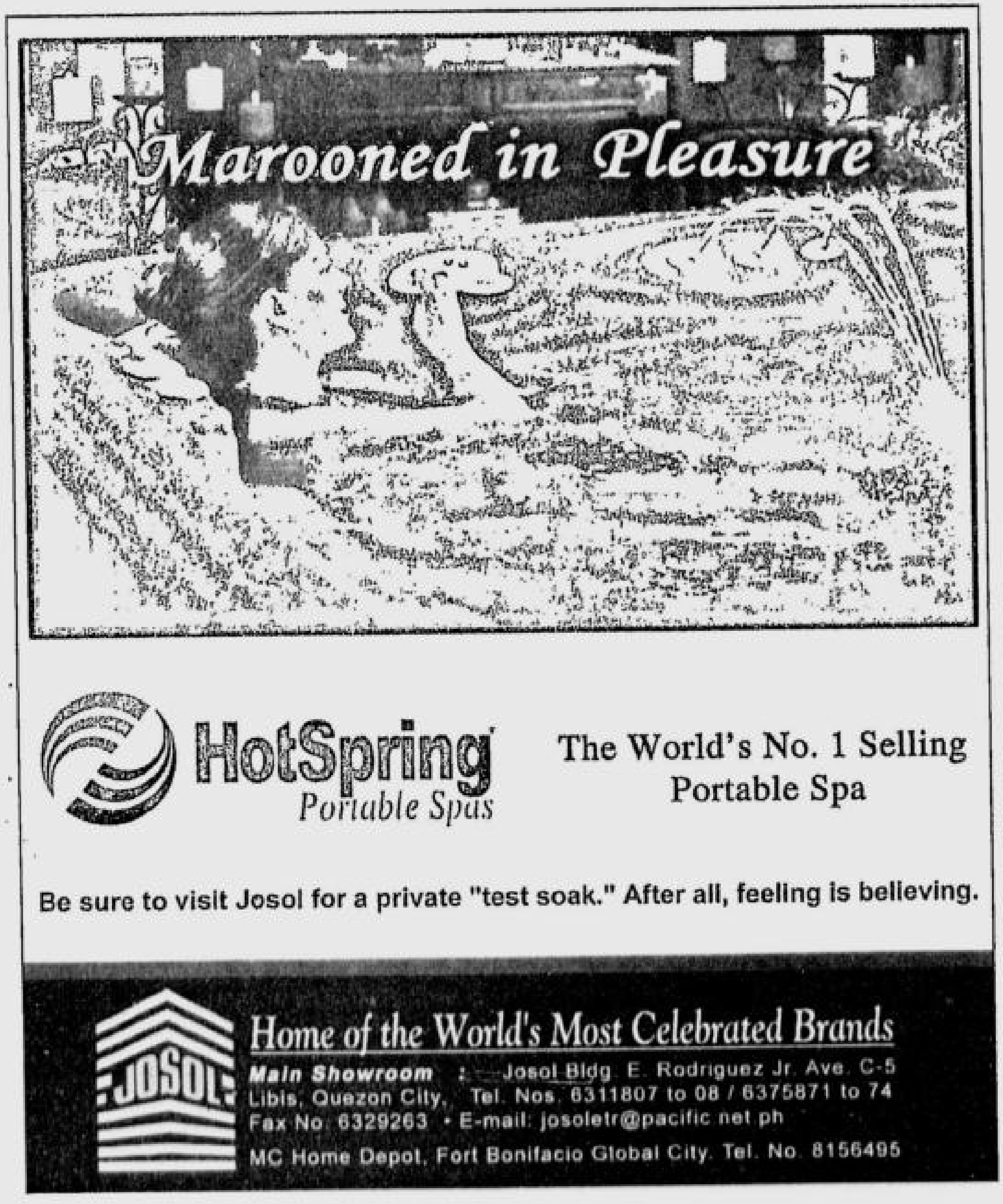
"Market players are now saying that the peso appreciation will continue and the expectation that there should be further improvement is also encouraging the banks to sell some of their dollars now, so it also provides further push," Tetangco said.

RP exports

"So it will probably stay at around these levels, a little over 52, in the days to come," he said.

The BSP chief added that the peso's appreciation should not have a big dent on the competitiveness of Philippine exports.

"The exchange rate is not the only factor affecting exports. There are other factors like capacity, efficiency and infrastructure," he said. *With a report from Reuters*



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Abu Sayyaf plotting fresh attacks in Metro, says state prosecutor

THE ABU SAYYAF BANDIT GROUP IS PLOTTING fresh attacks in Metro Manila almost a year after blowing up a bus in the Makati financial district, killing four people, a state prosecutor said yesterday.

Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco said the latest plot was uncovered with the help of a former Abu Sayyaf member who turned state witness during a trial last year that ended with death sentences for an Indonesian and two Filipinos for their role in the Feb. 14, 2005 bus bombing.

"Their plan is to strike on or before Feb. 14 to show they are still a force to reckon with, to say that even if our people are in jail, we can strike," Velasco told the Associated Press.

He refused to disclose details of the plot, but said three would-be attackers were identified by the witness, Gappal Bannah alias "Boy Negro," through surveillance photographs. He said he had filed a case of rebellion against them and was waiting for a judge to issue arrest warrants.

Police officials, however, said they have not received any reports of a planned Abu Sayyaf attack on Metro Manila but are not taking any chances.

Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr., the Philippine National Police deputy chief for operations, said security has been beefed up in key economic areas and other public places like malls and train stations as a precautionary measure.

"We have put into place preemptive measures, such as intensifying our intelligence gathering. That also includes checking with our foreign counterparts," Razon said.

The National Capital Region Police Office has been on full alert after a man tried to enter a train station with two dynamite sticks in his backpack a few days ago.

Abu Sayyaf bandits, hiding in the remote jungles of Mindanao, are notorious for ransom kidnappings and bomb attacks, which have targeted Filipinos and Americans.

Intelligence units in the Philippines and Washington said the group has allied itself with the regional terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah.

JI has sent Indonesians to train in the Philippines and help the Abu Sayyaf carry out bombings, military authorities said.

The group, which numbers about 300 men, is on a United States list of terrorist organizations and Washington has offered rewards for information leading to the capture of its leaders.

Scores of militants already have been killed or arrested in US-backed military operations. Later this month, about 250 US troops will start month-long military training of Filipino soldiers on Jolo island, an Abu Sayyaf stronghold.

The Abu Sayyaf had claimed responsibility for the Feb. 14, 2005 bombing in Makati as well as two other bomb attacks in two southern towns the same day, in retaliation for a military offensive.

An Indonesian man, Rohmat, who confessed to membership in the regional terror group Jemaah Islamiyah, was sentenced to death last year for the attack, along with two Filipinos, Gamal Baharan and Abu Khalil Trinidad.

Authorities say several dozen Indonesian militants have been training Abu Sayyaf bandits in bomb-making. *AP and Luige A. del Puerto*

Philippine-American war remembered

By DJ Yap

ON THE NIGHT OF Feb. 4, 1899, 107 years ago, an American sentry, Private William W. Grayson shot a Filipino on a bridge in San Juan del Monte, precipitating a war that would last for three years.

The Filipino troops fired back at the American lines and before the night was over, fighting had broken out between Filipino and American forces.

The Philippine-American War left thousands of Filipino and American soldiers, and scores of innocent civilians, killed, dead or wounded.

Back in the US, the liberal media ridiculed the government's foray into a war more than halfway around the world. Caricatures and cartoons satirically depicted the war and the US interest in the Philippines.

One cartoon that appeared in "The Verdict" showed the Statue of Liberty holding up Juan De La Cruz bundled up in a Stars and Stripes flag.

It bore the caption: "Citizen or subject—what? Do I represent the idea of popular government to tens of millions of them, or am I simply a trademark for goods of American Trust Manufacture?"

This and other caricatures are now on exhibit at the University of the Philippines. These were put up last Thursday by the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan to commemorate the "forgotten war."

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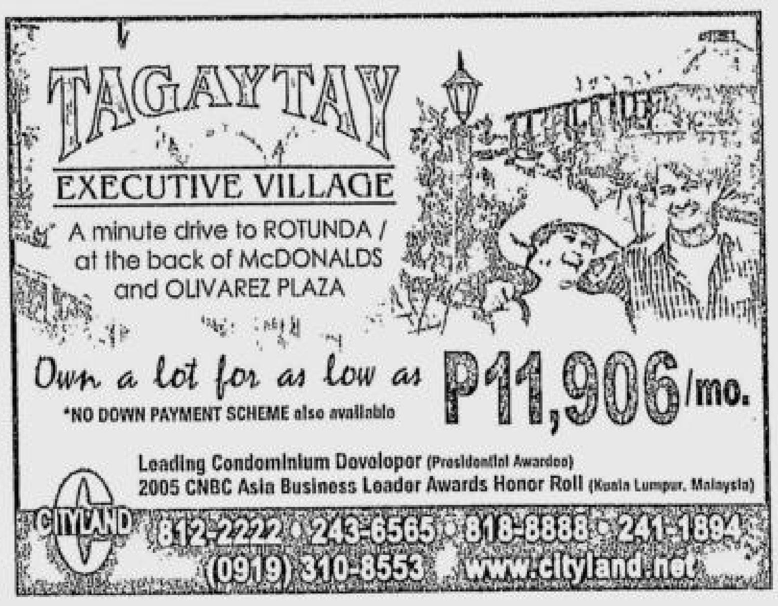
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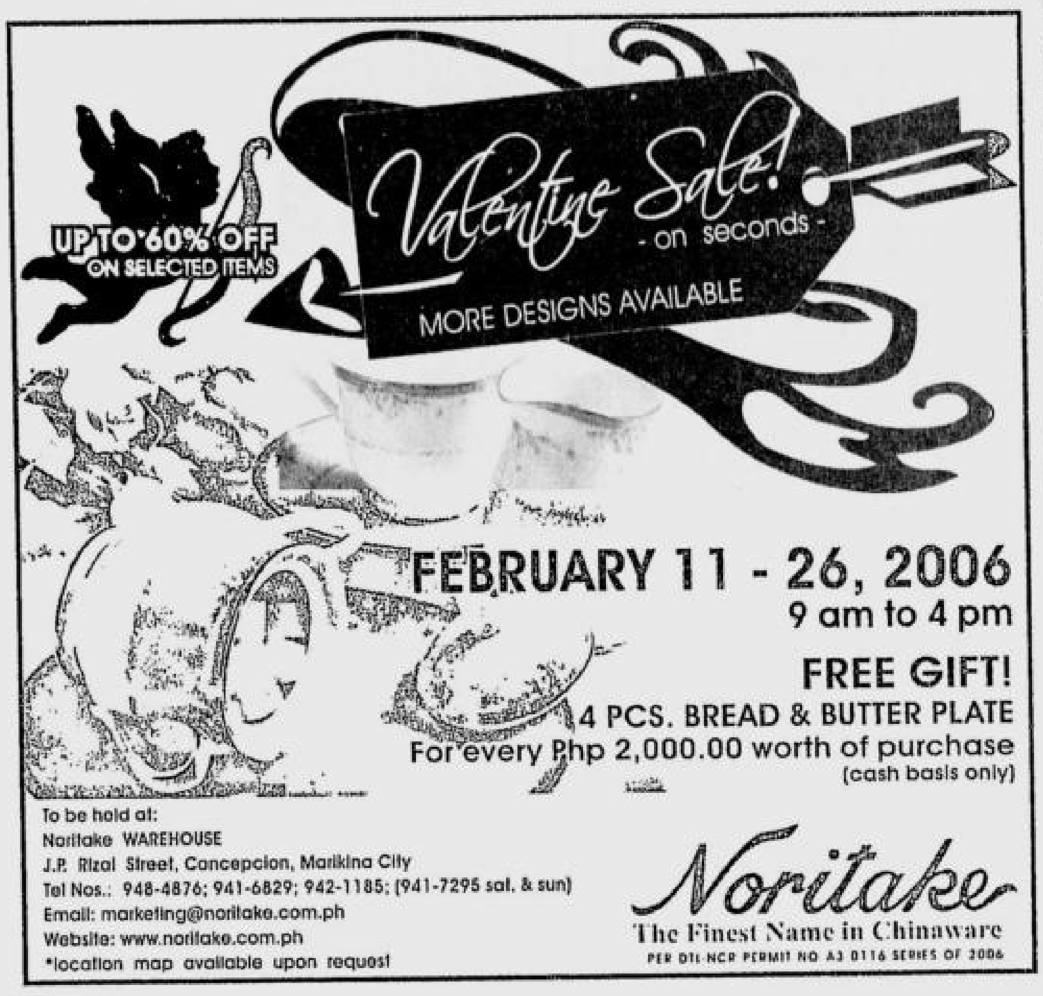
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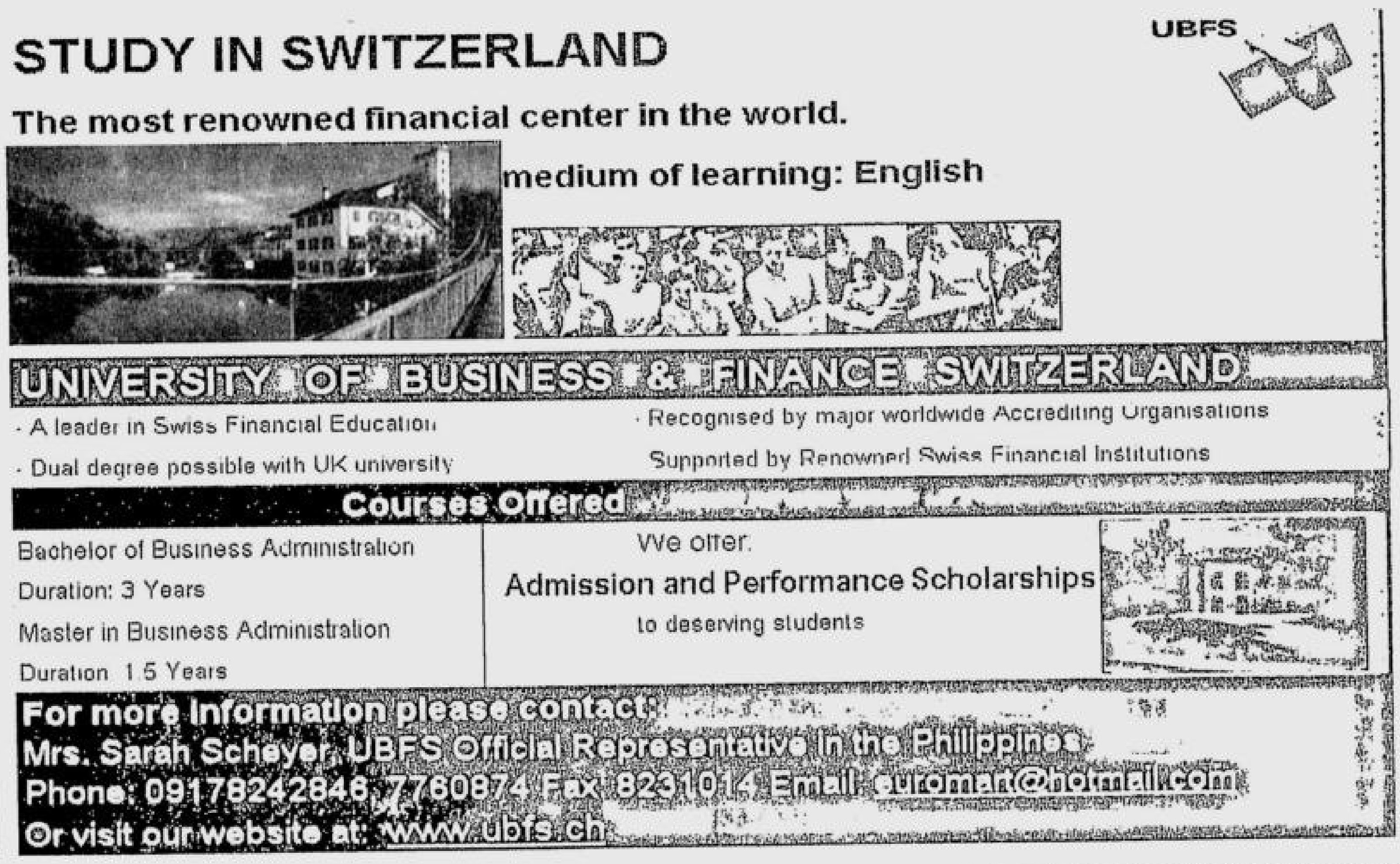
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DATE	SUBJECT	CREDIT HOURS*	LECTURER
20 February	Dual Citizenship. Problems, Issues and Processes (*Substantive Law*)	Three (3) (9.00-12.00)	Com. Linda Malenab-Hornilla
	International Labor : OFW Issues (*International Law*)	Two (2) (1:00-3.00)	Atty. Angelo Jimenez
	Salient Features of the New E-Vat Law (*MCLE Prescribed*)	Three (3)(3.15-6:15)	Prof. Serafin U. Salvador
21 February	Ethical Dimensions in the Availment of Legal Remedies (*Legal Ethics*)	Three (3) (9.00-12:00)	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino
	Mediation and Arbitration Skills for Lawyers (*ADR*)	Three (3) (1:00-4.00)	Prof. Rowena Daroy-Morales
	Court Annexed and Court Referred Mediation (*ADR*)	Two (2) (4.15-6.15)	Prof. Rowena Daroy-Morales
22 February	Trial Techniques (*Pre-Trial and Trial Skills*)	Four (4) (8.00-12.00)	Dep. Omb. Jesus F. Guerrero
	Ownership and Possession of Property under the Land Registration Act (*Substantive Law*)	Three (3) (1:00-4.00)	Justice Oswaldo D. Agcaoili
23 February	Ethical Considerations in Government Bidding and Procurement (*Legal Ethics*)	Three (3) (9.00-12:00)	Prof. Bartolome C. Fernandez
	Constitutional Change: Issues and Answers (*MCLE Prescribed*)	Three (3) (1.00-4.00)	Prof. Florin T. Hilbay
24 February	Modes of Discovery (*Procedural Law*)	Three (3) (9.00-12.00)	Justice Oscar M. Herrera
	Considerations For a More Efficient Legal Writing (*Legal Writing*)	Four (4) (1.00-5.00)	Senior DCA Zenaida N. Elepano

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Battle lines drawn over cartoons row

PARIS—AN INTERNATIONAL ROW OVER NEWSpaper cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad gathered pace on Thursday as more European dailies printed controversial Danish caricatures and Muslims increased pressure to stop them.

A dozen Palestinian gunmen surrounded European Union offices in the Gaza Strip demanding an apology for the cartoons, one of which shows Islam's founder wearing a bomb-shaped turban.

Muslims consider any images of Mohammad to be blasphemous.

Palestinian gunmen kidnapped and later released a German from a hotel in the West Bank city of Nablus, witnesses said.

Earlier, al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades threatened at a news conference to kidnap citizens of France, Denmark and Norway if they did not leave Nablus within 72 hours. Newspapers in Germany and Spain have also reprinted the caricatures.

Afghanistan condemned the publication of the caricatures and about 400 Islamic school students set fire to French and Danish flags in protest in the city of Multan in central Pakistan.

The owner of France Soir, a Paris daily that reprinted the cartoons on Wednesday along with a German paper, sacked its managing editor to show "a strong sign of respect for the beliefs and intimate convictions of every individual."

But the tabloid defended its right to print the cartoons, first published last September in Danish daily Jyllands-Posten.

Le Temps in Geneva and Budapest's Magyar Hirlap ran another offending cartoon showing an imam telling suicide bombers to stop because Heaven had run out of virgins to reward them.

Several European publications, such as Spain's ABC newspaper and Periodico de Catalunya, showed photographs of papers which had published the cartoons. Other European dailies including France's Le Monde printed cartoons mocking the row.

Some politicians criticized the press for fueling the row.

Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen said the issue had gone beyond a row between Copenhagen and the Muslim world and now centered on Western free speech versus taboos in Islam, which is now the second religion in many European countries.

"We are talking about an issue with fundamental significance to how democracies work," Rasmussen told the Copenhagen daily Politiken. "One can safely say it is now an even bigger issue."

Rasmussen's office said he and Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller had summoned foreign envoys in Copenhagen for a Friday meeting to discuss the outcry and the government's response.

Denmark's ambassador in Paris met leaders of French Muslims, who have threatened legal action. The ambassador handed over a letter of regret from Rasmussen, written in Arabic, and an apology from the director of Jyllands-Posten. *Reuters*

Egypt ferry sinks in Red Sea; over 1,000 missing

CAIRO—AN EGYPTIAN PASSENGER FERRY carrying around 1,300 people, mostly Egyptian workers returning from Saudi Arabia, sank in the Red Sea overnight. Coast Guard vessels pulled dozens of bodies from the water Friday and rescued 100 survivors from lifeboats, officials said.

The 35-year-old ship, Al-Salam Boccaccio 98, went down 70 km off the Egyptian port of Hurghada between midnight and 2 a.m. as most of the passengers were sleeping, plunging them into waters whose temperatures average around 19 Celsius in February.

The cause was not immediately known, but there were high winds and a sandstorm overnight on Saudi Arabia's west coast, from which the ship departed Thursday evening.

"It's a roll-on, roll-off ferry and there is big question mark over the stability of this kind of ship," said David Osler of the London shipping paper Lloyds List. "It would only take a bit of water to get on board this ship and it would be all over ... The percentage of this type of ferry involved in this type of disaster is huge."

The agent for the ship in Saudi Arabia, Farid al-Douadi, said there were around 220 vehicles on board and that the ship had the capacity for 2,500 passengers.

Four Egyptian rescue ships reached the scene on Friday afternoon, around 10 hours after the ship likely went down, sending passengers into Red Sea waters.

An official at the Maritime Authority control room in Suez confirmed that 20 bodies had been pulled out of the water so far. He said about 100 survivors were rescued from five lifeboats. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press.

A spokesperson for the Egyptian Embassy in London, Ayman al-Kaffas, told the BBC that "dozens of bodies" had been pulled out of the water and several life boats had been spotted.

The ship left at 7 p.m. local time Thursday from the Saudi port of Dubah, a common transit point for tens of thousands of Egyptian expatriates working in Saudi Arabia—many of them impoverished—to return home. *AP*

Enron jury hears tape of Skilling cursing investor

HOUSTON—JURORS IN THE TRIAL OF EX-Enron chiefs Jeffrey Skilling and Ken Lay on Thursday heard an infamous tape of Skilling calling an investor an "asshole" as the man confronted him over the company's murky earnings releases.

The insult came in April of 2001, just eight months before Enron went bankrupt as, prosecutors say, Skilling was becoming increasingly desperate to maintain an illusion that the failing company was in good financial shape.

Skilling is heard on the tape being grilled on a conference call by Richard Grubman, a hedge fund investor, over the company's failure to release a balance sheet with its earnings reports.

"You're the only financial institution that can't produce a balance sheet or cash flow statement with their earnings," Grubman is heard to say on the tape.

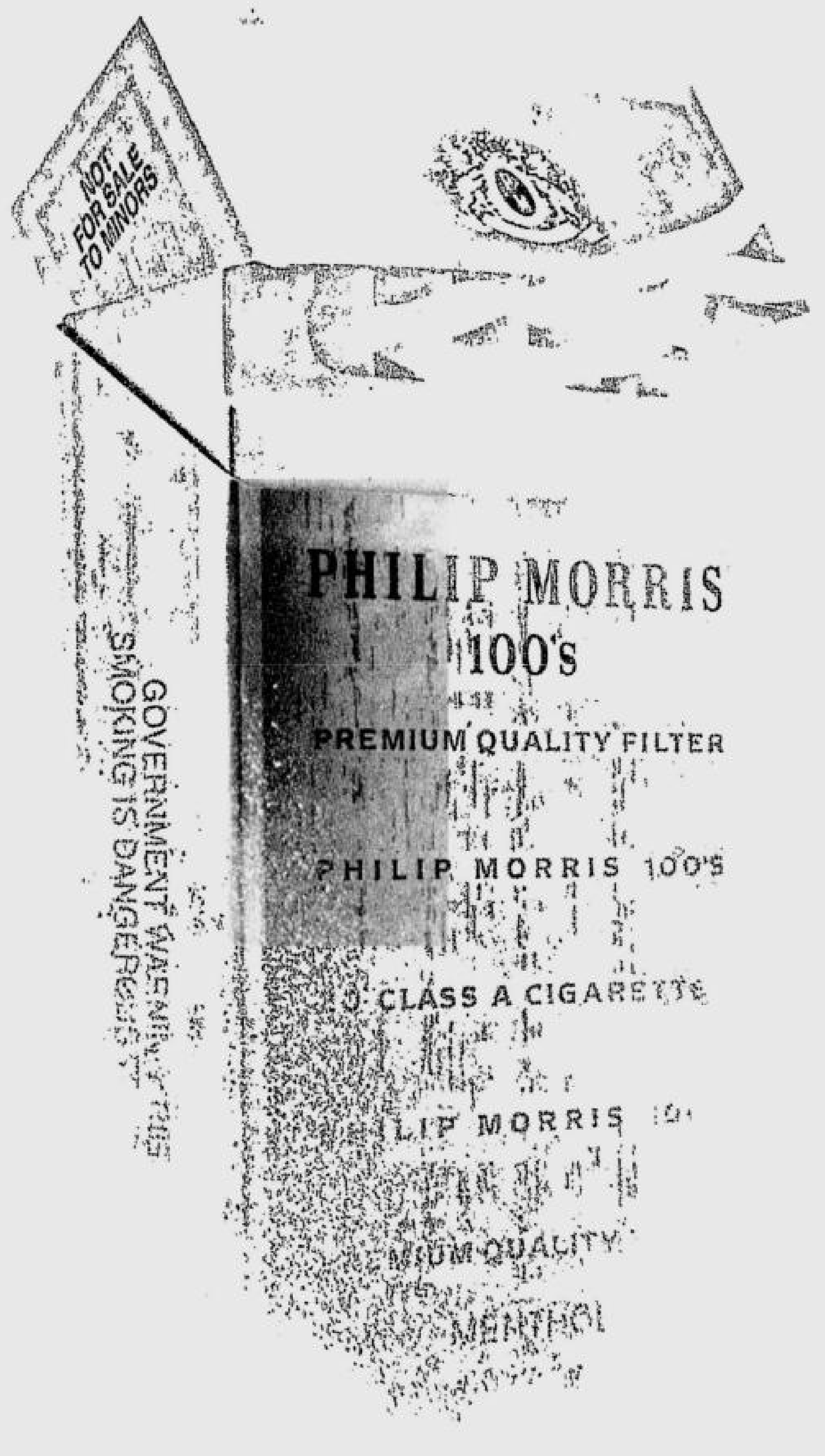
Skilling responds: "You ... you. ... Thank you very much, we appreciate it. Asshole."

Mark Koenig, who directed Enron's investor relations and was testifying when prosecutor Kathryn Ruemmler played the tape, said he was in the room with Skilling and other top Enron executives during the call.

"I was surprised. We were all surprised at the table," Koenig said of the remark, which was overheard by journalists listening to the call and became a minor scandal in the normally staid world of corporate finance.

Koenig said he had Skilling's remark edited out of tapes of the call. "I didn't feel it was appropriate," he said. "It was not a comment we'd had on conference calls in the past and I didn't see any upside to leaving that out there."

Koenig, who has pleaded guilty for his role in Enron's collapse under an agreement with prosecutors to testify against his former bosses, also recalled for jurors how he learned from Lay in August of 2001 that Skilling was quitting. *Reuters*



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HAWAII FIXTURE NOW A SUNSET INDUSTRY AP

A rainbow is seen over a Del Monte pineapple field in Kunia on Feb. 2, on Oahu, Hawaii. The future of Hawaii's top agricultural product is now in question as Fresh Del Monte Produce Inc. announced it will cease pineapple operations in Hawaii in a little more than two years. Del Monte said it was no longer economically feasible to grow pineapple in Hawaii because it can be produced for less elsewhere.

21 Iraqis, 5 US soldiers die in rebel attacks across Iraq

BAGHDAD—AT LEAST 21 IRAQIS were killed Thursday, including 10 in a pair of Baghdad car bombings, while the US military said five of its troops lost their lives in attacks across the war-torn country.

Ten Iraqis died and 55 were wounded in two separate car bombings in Baghdad's Al-Amin neighborhood—one near a gas station and the other in a market—an interior ministry official said.

"Most of the casualties were from the blast in the market," the official said. The other car bomb blew up a parked gas tanker, setting off a huge fireball.

The US military announced Thursday that five soldiers died a day earlier in separate rebel attacks.

Three soldiers were killed when their vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb in southern Baghdad.

The fourth succumbed to wounds suffered when his unit came under small-arms fire in the southwest of the capital.

A marine also died of his wounds after coming under small-arms fire near the former rebel bastion town of Fallujah, west of Baghdad.

The latest fatalities take the death toll of US military personnel in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion to 2,247, according to an AFP count based on Pentagon figures.

Four Iraqis were killed in heavy fighting reportedly between the Mehdi Army militia of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr and US forces in Baghdad's Sadr City, a US military spokesperson said.

He said fighting began when US-led forces came under attack during a nighttime raid in the poor, predominantly Shiite district.

"The coalition forces conducted a raid in Sadr City to search for a known terrorist from (the al-Qaida-linked) Ansar al-Sunna group," the spokesperson told AFP.

He said a US helicopter came under fire from some men on a nearby rooftop. "Another helicopter of the coalition forces returned fire to eliminate the threat," he said, adding that "four individuals were killed."

He did not say whether the four dead were members of the Mehdi Army. An interior ministry official said the fight was between US forces and Sadr's militia, and that a woman was also killed in the fighting. *AFP*

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Iraq 7th country where bird flu has killed people

GENEVA—AN IRAQI TEENAGER WHO DIED last month had the H5N1 bird flu virus, the World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed on Thursday, meaning the disease has now killed people in seven countries as it spreads across the globe.

The WHO said there was an urgent need to establish the severity of the outbreak among birds in war-ravaged Iraq.

The latest victim was a teenage girl who died of severe respiratory disease in hospital in the city of Sulaimaniya in northern Iraq on Jan. 17.

"Test results have now confirmed her infection," the WHO said in a statement after tests at a British laboratory.

Specimens from her uncle, who died 10 days later, were on their way to the laboratory along with those of a 54-year-old woman under treatment for respiratory illness.

Two more people, also in the Sulaimaniya area, had "symptoms suggestive of H5N1 infection," the WHO said.

The largely autonomous northern Iraqi region of Kurdistan, where the girl lived, is near areas frequented by migratory birds and not far from the border with Turkey where four children have died from bird flu.

The H5N1 virus has now claimed 86 lives among 161 known cases since reemerging in Asia in late 2003.

Victims currently contract it through close contact with infected birds. However, experts fear the virus could mutate to spread easily between humans and spark a pandemic that could kill millions.

The United Nations health agency praised local doctors for their awareness of the clinical features of the disease and good public health vigilance. Poultry culling was also under way in the region in an attempt to halt the spread of the disease. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

US visas for experts

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush, in a bid to attract the world's brightest scientists and engineers, urged Congress to raise the limit on visas for highly educated foreign professionals. "I think it's a mistake not to encourage more really bright folks who can fill the jobs that are having trouble being filled here in America—to limit their number," Bush said Thursday in remarks on US competitiveness in Minnesota, according to a White House statement. "And so I call upon Congress to be realistic and reasonable and raise that cap," said Bush, who this week unveiled plans to Congress for a new competitiveness initiative requiring $136 billion over the next decade. Bush said "the problem is that Congress has limited the number of H-1B visas," used by foreigners sponsored and employed in specialty fields, such as technology. *AFP*

Venezuela expels US attaché

CARACAS—Venezuela on Thursday expelled the US navy attaché in Caracas, with President Hugo Chavez accusing the officer of spying, setting off new diplomatic hostilities with the United States. The US government denied that the diplomat had been involved in espionage, and the expulsion brought ties between the two countries to a new low. Chavez identified the expelled attaché as Commander John Correa. Chavez accused Correa of buying information on the Venezuelan armed forces and of setting the stage for a "Panama-type operation." US forces invaded Panama in 1989 to arrest strongman Manuel Noriega and try him in Miami on drug charges. *AFP*

Boehner now US House leader

WASHINGTON—US Rep. John Boehner of Ohio upset a former deputy to indicted Texan Tom DeLay on Thursday to become majority leader of the scandal-rocked US House of Representatives. With this party leadership election, House Republicans hoped to begin to move beyond ethics problems, tied to lobbyists, that threaten their control of the US Congress in the November election. Rep. Roy Blunt of Missouri had appeared to be the front-runner, based on a long list of public commitments. But Boehner, who campaigned on a vow to seek to renew the party's "spirit and vision," defeated Blunt and Rep. John Shadegg of Arizona in a secret-ballot election by fellow Republicans. Blunt, who returned to his job as majority whip, joined Boehner and other Republican leaders afterward in a show of unity. *Reuters*

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OPINION

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Dead people

EDITORIAL

EVEN AS THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES declared its investigation of the "Hello Garci" tapes closed, the continuing Senate probe into the P728-million fertilizer scam, as well as the recent hearing on the budget of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, have served to remind the public that it is not. In fact, what has been happening in the Senate served to refresh in the public mind what "Hello Garci" inquiry demonstrated: the great reluctance of the Arroyo administration to come clean about the controversies that bitterly divide the nation.

Such reluctance is clearly manifested in the cat-and-mouse game some central characters in these controversies have been playing with Congress, and the evasive, if not outlandish, replies of administration officials and witnesses to lawmakers' questions as well as Executive Order 464 which bars officials of the Executive Branch from appearing in legislative hearings without the President's permission. All of which has made a mockery of legislative processes and made fools of our legislators.

Former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Jocjoc" Bolante's failure to attend so many Senate hearings on the fertilizer scam, including the most recent one on Jan. 31, was reminiscent of the prolonged absence of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano from the House investigation of the "Hello Garci" scandal and electoral fraud last year. PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio's refusal to answer questions about reported negotiations with businessman Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr. regarding San Miguel Corp. shares bought with coconut levy funds sounded very much like the evasive answers given by National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales during the Senate hearing on the Venable contract in September 2005.

Gonzales said he had signed the contract on his own, but dodged questions about the extent of President Macapagal-Arroyo's involvement in the agreement as well as the funding for the contract. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye defended Gonzales "silence," saying the latter was under obligation not to divulge security matters. In the Senate hearing on the budget of the Presidential Commission on Good Government last Jan. 30, Sabio parried questions regarding the reported negotiations on a compromise deal by citing a provision in the law creating PCGG which says, "No member or staff of the commission [PCGG] shall be required to testify or produce evidence in any judicial, legislative, or administrative proceeding concerning matters within its official cognizance."

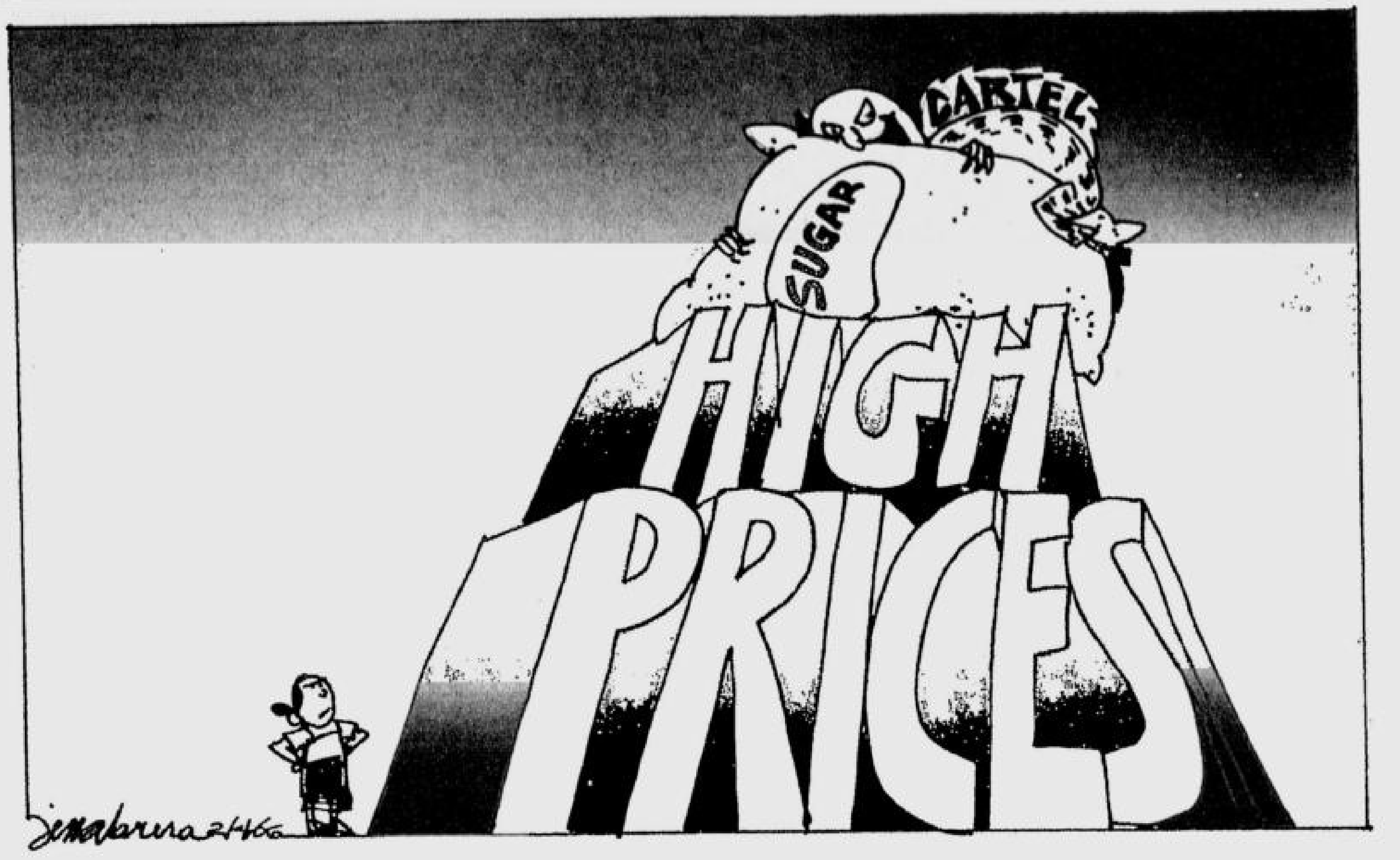
Sabio's stunt is only the latest act of noncooperation, if not outright defiance of Congress by administration officials and allies. And while lawmakers are being reduced to toothless tigers, public funds, including recovered Marcos wealth, are evaporating, leaving behind nothing concrete or convincing even for the administration to crow about.

For example, Budget Secretary Romulo Neri has admitted that P27 billion out of the P35-billion in Marcos family deposits recovered from a Swiss bank has been spent. There is suspicion that the P728 million squandered in the fertilizer scam came from this fund. And according to former Sen. Jovito Salonga, this could be one reason the President could not "tell the whole truth" about the "Hello Garci" case.

With the Senate immobilized by EO 464 and a House happily fattened by pork, who is now to check the executive? With so many people close to the President being linked to big-time corruption, what agency will dare to investigate them? Who will watch over the people's money? And what happens now to the right of the people to information?

"A people without information is a dead people," INQUIRER columnist Juan Mercado quoted journalist Rosalina Velasquez as saying. And President Arroyo underscored the importance of letting the people know what is going on in government during her inaugural address after Edsa II. She stressed then that in order "to ensure that our gains are not dissipated through corruption, we must improve" the government's moral standards. "As we do so, we create a fertile ground for good governance based on a sound moral foundation, a philosophy of transparency, and an ethic of effective implementation."

Transparency? What we have seen in the past five years of her presidency and in the acts of many of her officials and allies makes us wonder if she ever meant what she said. Or are we already a dead people?



A presumptuous superfluity

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I HAVE NOT BOTHERED TO READ THE proposed revision of the present Constitution as prepared by the Consultative Commission because its provenance is suspicious, its very existence is doubtful, and its operations are uselessly expensive.

The body was created by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for the announced purpose of studying the revision of the Constitution of 1987 although, as everyone with a modicum of political intuition knows, its pre-determined object was to propose the replacement of the present form of government with a parliamentary system. The body was given a generous operating fund of P10 million that its chair immediately protested as inadequate for the supposedly mammoth task it was expected to perform.

The composition of the ConCom is less than reassuring compared to the distinguished membership of the Constitutional Commission of 1986 that drafted the present Constitution: It was headed by Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma and included many outstanding legislators like Ambrosia Padilla, Jose B. Laurel Jr., Blas F. Ople, Lorenzo M. Sumulong, Francisco Rodrigo and Decorous Rosales. The judiciary was also so well represented by Roberto Concepcion, Hilario G. Davide Jr., Florenz D. Regalado, Serafin Guingona, and others. There were also reputable private citizens like Christian S. Monsod, Teresa Nieva, Joaquin G. Bernas, Christian O. Tan and Jose N. Nolledo.

Except for Chair Jose Abueva and a few other more or less known appointees, the members of the ConCom are practically anonymous and hardly reliable students, not to say experts, of the Constitution they were supposed to examine. The reasonable assumption is that they were chosen by President Arroyo not on the strength of their qualifications as open-minded appraisers of the presidential system but as its hostile critics resolved at the outset to reject it.

President Arroyo is the leading advocate of the parliamentary form of government as the practical substitute for the presidential system she now heads. The body she has created was therefore strongly instructed, albeit only privately to give it a semblance of independence, to make the motions of studying the 1987 Constitution to discover real or imagined faults that will justify its abrogation.

In other words, its operations were to be *moro-moro* only, (as when Marcos ordered his minions to make the motions of trying and acquitting the accused in the murder of Ninoy Aquino) with its conclusions already reached in advance in compliance with the presidential directive.

To support this fiction, the ConCom reportedly went all over the country to consult the people on the proposal to revise the Constitution and replace the presidential with the parliamentary form of government. In Cebu, according to one report, the members lodged at a plush hotel and held hearings there to condition public opinion in favor of the parliamentary versus the presidential system.

It is not known how many of the common people attended in the exclusive premises of the hotel to which only the moneyed patrons are accustomed and the hoi polloi are haughtily barred. The hearings could hardly have been democratic and open in those circumstances, to justify the high cost of using the 5-star accommodations of the hotel and, more importantly, the nourishment and comfort of the ConCom members.

If its other consultations throughout the country were done in like exclusive and expensive manner, it is no wonder that Abueva considered the initial appropriation for the ConCom operations insufficient and wanted the fund to be increased. It won't be surprising if it was.

The extravagant worthlessness of the ConCom becomes more obvious if it is considered that its findings are at best only recommendations and do not have the coercive effect of a statute, an executive order, an administrative regulation, or even a municipal ordinance.

It is even now already dismissed by many people who consider it intrusive and irrelevant, particularly with its preposterous plan to cancel the elections in 2007 and extend the terms of elective officials until 2010. This may have been intended to bribe Congress into completely accepting the proposed revision for the benefit of its members but to the prejudice of the nation.

It has been disowned by Mrs. Arroyo but, remember, she promised not to run in 2003 but forgot that promise in 2004.

The revision of the Constitution can be undertaken only by Congress or a constitutional convention it may choose to call. The ConCom should not have been created at all and at such cynical waste of public funds better devoted to worthy purposes. Its qualifications are shabby and its motives highly questionable if not, indeed, condemnable. It is a presumptuous superfluity without credentials or power to advise the rightful authorities on the serious subject of constitutional reform.

Teaching citizens to fight corruption

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

NO LONGER CAN ANYONE PLEAD IGNORance or helplessness or hopelessness as an excuse for not taking an active role in the fight against corruption. An "Anti-Graft Guidebook" has just come out, written by Sofronio B. Ursal and published by Good Governance Books, Quezon City (Email: governancebooks@yahoo.com). And it is a must-read for all of us, whether legislator, government bureaucrat, or ordinary citizen—because just the act of reading the book is an empowering experience.

The author is someone I've admired for a long time. Although I may have met him only once or twice, I know him by reputation as a man of integrity and competence, whether in government (50 years) or in civil society.. On the issue of corruption, he knows whereof he speaks: he served with distinction as a commissioner of the Commission on Audit, and after his retirement from that position, he has kept active in the fight against corruption through his directorships in Transparency International-Philippines, the Philippine Society for Public Administration, Sinag ng Bayan Foundation and other anti-corruption groups.

Why is reading the "Anti-Graft Guidebook" an empowering experience? The titles of the eight chapters (all well-researched and discussed exhaustively) give us a clue: "Understanding Graft," "The Role of Government Agency Heads,' "Basic Graft Prevention Tools," "Experimental Typology of Graft" (classifying graft, rules of thumb as to preventability of graft), "Survey of Philippine Anti-Graft Laws," "Profile of Anti-Graft Agencies," "Citizen's Remedies Against Official Abuses," and "The Remedy in Extremis." By the time one finishes reading it, one is not only raring to go graft-busting, one is provided with all the legal weapons to do so. Essentially, he has done all our homework—enough for us to draw our own conclusions and apply them—and even then, he makes it easy: those of us who want to put our money where our mouth are told what buttons we can push to break the "cycle" of graft. There is also a primer on how organizations can be accredited as a corruption-prevention unit by the Office of the Ombudsman.

The chapter on the typology of graft is particularly instructive. Here, Ursua classifies the graft by mode (administrative, policy, arbitration and political graft), by branch of service and rank of officer (career, non-career; lowest to highest), and by preventability (EP-Easily Preventable, P- Preventable, HP-Hardly Preventable, and NP-Not Preventable). The good news is that graft among the clerical and subprofessional workers in the career service is EP, while among the professional/technical up to division chief it is EP to P. Still as one goes up the ranks, it becomes harder to prevent graft. Ursal's matrix indicates that among the Career Executive Service, policy and political graft may be P, but administrative graft goes from P-HP and arbitration graft is HP-NP. By the time you get to heads of agency and members of the judiciary, the graft, where applicable, is classified HP-NP.

The really bad news is that graft by government officials in the non-career service, i.e., impeachable officials, executive officials, and officials of Cabinet, is considered by Ursal to be either HP-NP, or totally NP. Which is why it is so important for the appointing power (the President) to choose people not only with competence but with integrity, and why even then, her choices should be scrutinized closely by the Commission on Appointments. Unfortunately, historical experience tells us that the President's choices and the vetting by the Commission on Appointments are, more often than not, politically motivated. No wonder there is so much corruption.

After surveying the anti-graft laws of the country (and listing them), it is clear that there are more than enough of them—in terms of quantity, if not quality. Ursal, however, suggests one more: a Whistleblower Law, similar to that of the United States, that will protect government employees denouncing anomalies committed within their agencies (he uses Acsa Ramirez and General Gudani as examples of employees penalized for whistleblowing).

He also lists some very urgently needed amendments to existing laws. For example, the provisions in the revenue laws authorizing tax assessors to reduce their own tax assessments or to grant compromise settlements should be changed. These open up graft-prone situations where tax assessments are initially set unreasonably high and then reduced after "negotiations." Also, there is need to amend the Ombudsman's Act so as to authorize the Ombudsman to have access to and examine bank records in connection with anti-graft cases pending before his office, without need of a court order.

The most relevant portion for the ordinary citizen is the chapter on "Citizens' Remedies Against Official Abuses." It turns out that there are so many venues for filing complaints against a government official or employee. And there are so many grounds for filing administrative charges (at least seven) as well as criminal complaints. Ursal describes the procedures involved and tells us how to go about it. He exhorts us to fight back corruption by invoking our rights under the law instead of folding our arms and relying on people in government agencies to rediscover their sense of morality and those in anti-graft agencies to prosecute crooked officials.

Let's do it.

Sabio should quit company chairmanships

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

MILD-MANNERED PCGG CHAIR CAMILO SABIO may not look as menacing as his late predecessor, Haydee Yorac, but it cannot be denied that his stonewalling of the demand of the senators to disclose the details of the compromise agreement he's allegedly negotiating with Eduardo Cojuangco shows he really got guts. In refusing to talk about it, Sabio cited as one reason the fact that three senators—Senate President Franklin Drilon and Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Edgardo Angara—were closely involved in the coconut levy issue. Enrile was involved in drafting the first executive order of President Ferdinand Marcos creating the coconut levy fund. Angara headed the Accra Law Office that packaged the levy structure for Cojuangco, obscuring ownership beneath layers and layers of corporations with interlocking directorships. One of those corporations under the flagship Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF), called First Meridian Development, was organized and headed by Drilon, then a young Accra partner. Because of this, Solicitor General Sedrey Ordoñez implicated them in Civil Case 0033, which sought the recovery of the coco levy funds.

I can only surmise that Sabio didn't feel like discussing any compromise formula with the senators because they know more about the levy issue than he does. Perhaps he feels they should tell him first how the levy investment had worked.

* * *

But I agree with Sen. Joker Arroyo who said Sabio should give up the chairmanship of some 29 or so companies that PCGG had sequestered, 14 of them formerly owned by Cojuangco, because it puts him in a conflict-of-interest situation. The PCGG should be trying to get the best terms for the government from the sequestered companies, Arroyo said, but this becomes impossible if Sabio is profiting from them. In fairness to Sabio, this has been the set-up from the beginning. In the early years after Edsa I, I realized that the PCGG's pitfall was that it was administering the very companies it had sequestered. I opined that the Cory government should have separated the two functions and assigned the administration of those companies to a separate office run by professional managers, who could maintain them profitably for the government. But that didn't happen. And we saw sequestered resources being plundered by a succession of PCGG personnel over the last two decades.

* * *

Different reactions have surfaced to the bishops' statement calling for "a relentless search for truth" on the allegations of electoral fraud against President Macapagal-Arroyo, which stemmed from the Garci tapes. Some ask how the search will proceed, as the recent Manila Standard Today editorial pointed out, after no less than seven months of congressional hearings on those tapes "that triggered an impeachment effort against the President that was legally surmounted." They note that during the interminable hearings in the Senate and in the House, many witnesses testified but to this day nothing conclusive has been reached concerning the tapes. Who did the taping and why? How much of the conversations are authentic and how much spurious?

* * *

I agree. Will "relentlessly" pursuing the truth about the tapes, as the bishops have said, bring us closer to the "truth" and stabilize this country? Or will it only exacerbate the "paralyzing gridlock" and the "deadening preoccupation with narrow political interests"? It's apparent that for the opposition, "truth" can only be served by GMA's ouster; it had made up its minds long ago and it is no longer searching for the truth. But to many of them, especially those facing graft charges, sounding moral is good sound byte.

* * *

Rather than focus on the tapes, there are two developments the bishops ought to watch. One is the on-going Senate investigation on the fertilizer scam. This issue, if proved, could truly pose a problem to the administration since there must be a paper trail that might prove crucial in a second impeachment complaint. The second development involves the revision of ballots from Cebu after the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET) gave due course to the electoral protest of opposition vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda against Vice President Noli de Castro. De Castro's lead is about 800,000 votes and, with 25 percent of Cebu votes already examined, his lawyer, Romeo Makalintal, claims no significant finding has surfaced to alter the results. What's interesting is that Makalintal is also GMA's lawyer and he is zealously keeping track of her votes, too. He avers that GMA won in Cebu by 1,002,000 votes, which constitutes the bulk of her 1.2 million lead over the late Fernando Poe Jr. Makalintal asks: If the PET comes to the conclusion (perhaps by about May this year) that De Castro won fairly in Cebu, where does that put the Garci tapes?

* * *

Tomorrow is a red-letter day for alumnae of the former Holy Ghost College (now College of the Holy Spirit). This includes our high school Class '56, which is celebrating its golden jubilee, as well as the following jubilarians: Class '81, silver; Class '76, pearl; Class '71, coral; Class '66, ruby; Class '61, sapphire; Class '51, emerald, Class '46, diamond and Class '41, platinum. The golden jubilarians are coming in Bobby Novenario-designed carnival outfits for a "Copa Cabana" dance number. I must say that it's truly *lakas ng loob* for girls in their mid-60s to do this, but then many of them still look gorgeous. For details, classmates can contact Dr. Cristina Eloriaga at 843-4555 and Dr. Amelia Bulmer at 371-2105. Registration will be from 8 to 10 a.m., followed by the Eucharistic celebration and a lunch buffet. The program begins at 1:30 p.m. with CHSAF president Carmen Dayrit Padilla's report, then the giving of awards to "Outstanding Alumnae" and a "Tribute to teachers," and finally the jubilarians' presentations.

ED: Men's dirty secret?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IS IT SOME KIND OF COSMIC JOKE PLAYED ON humankind that at a time in their lives when sexual activity should be at its peak, couples find their bodies not up to the task?

After menopause, women say goodbye to their fear of pregnancy and the need for contraception. With the children all grown up, there's no danger of their walking in unannounced in the middle of things. The stress and pressure to perform—in the workplace, in one's profession and among one's peers—is eased greatly by looming retirement. And with the empty nest and lots of free time, husband and wife are back to being a couple again, thrown into each other's constant company, enjoying the luxury of shared interests and the company of friends.

Recipe for a second honeymoon, right?

Unfortunately, not all the time. Menopause brings with it not just cessation of menstruation, but may also trigger depression, lagging sexual desire and vaginal dryness, not to mention night sweats, hot flashes and nausea.

There is no male equivalent to menopause, but an increasing number of men face much the same problem as their wives—flagging arousal, depression and erectile dysfunction. The last, defined as a man's sustained inability to produce or maintain an erection, is a little talked-about problem that is rooted in a multitude of causes.

Dr. Brian Miles, medical director of the Texas Cancer Institute and a leading urologist, says that in general, erectile dysfunction (ED) may be rooted in cardiovascular difficulties, especially poor blood circulation. Diseases and habits that impede blood circulation, including diabetes and smoking, could result in ED. As well, drugs used to treat diseases common among older folk— heart conditions, hypertension, depression—may also cause ED.

* * *

THERE are other causes, including nerve damage, surgery, overweight, with the resulting anxiety and low self-esteem further deepening the condition.

One cause of ED is particularly interesting. Called "Pyronie's disease," after a French doctor who discovered the condition centuries ago, it involves the growth of plaque or scarring in the blood vessels responsible for engorgement of the penis. The growths impede erection, causing discomfort and even pain, and forcing the penis to bend during erection. There's no identifiable cause for the condition. "It's a condition that we're finding in a growing number of American men," says Dr. Miles, "and I would think a lot of Filipino men would have it, too."

"As soon as they notice even a slight faltering in their sexual ability, men will become anxious and begin doubting themselves," notes Dr. Miles. "Few know that there is a physical reason for this and that there are solutions to their problem."

Wives and partners of men with ED, I would imagine, might also begin to think it's their fault, that the man's loss of interest in sex (or at least in having sex with them) might be rooted in their age, their figure, their wrinkles, their loss of muscle control, even. "You assume men and women communicate about their sex lives," Dr. Miles says with a laugh when I bring up the possibility of men being upfront about their problem and finding solutions together with their partners. Still, it might help to talk about it, right?

* * *

JOINING Dr. Miles on this visit to Manila is Dr. Sewa Legha, director of the Melanoma Center of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston. At a lunch forum with the Zonta Club of Makati, Dr. Legha talked on women's health issues, beginning with what he termed "The Ten Commandments for a Healthy Lifestyle for Wellness."

As Dr. Legha pointed out, good health begins with a healthy lifestyle, and sure enough his "commandments" start with the trio of weight control, regular exercise and a healthy diet, followed by "no smoking" and "limit alcohol consumption."

Women's No. 1 health problem is one they share with men. With age, the odds of coming down with coronary artery disease increases, so women should also begin watching their blood pressure, cholesterol levels and blood sugar.

Earlier, I asked Dr. Legha where he stood on the issue of hormone replacement therapy or HRT, which doctors began prescribing to alleviate the symptoms of menopause and, it was believed then, provide women with extra protection against heart problems which had been attributed to estrogen production.

HRT is no longer routinely prescribed in the US and the developed world, Dr. Legha revealed. A study on the effects of HRT, called the Women's Health Initiative which involved over a thousand women and followed them over 10 years, has found that HRT provides no protection against heart attacks to women while increasing their risk of breast cancer, though studies are still being conducted on its role in promoting "bone health" and preventing osteoporosis.

* * *

"ONE in three women" is most likely to develop breast and other cancers of the reproductive tract, Dr. Legha said. Breast cancer is by far the most common cancer among women, though the incidence in the developed world is far higher than in Asia, for instance. The good news is that if detected early, the odds of overcoming breast cancer are good.

Cervical cancer is another manageable form of cancer, said Dr. Legha, and in the developed world, thanks to almost universal screening, "it's almost unheard of now." But unfortunately, in the developing world, including much of Asia, cervical cancer is still common and deadly.

Hepatitis B infection, which has been linked to liver cancer, is also quite common in Asia, says Dr. Legha, but the Philippines could learn from the experiences of other countries like Taiwan, where universal vaccination has led to sharply falling rates of liver disease.

Urbanization

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

WE ARE TOLD THAT IN 25 YEARS MOST OF US will be living in cities and towns and that of the two billion people who will inhabit the earth by then, the majority will live in Asia. By 2015, out of the 21 megacities, 12 will be in Asia and one of them is Manila.

Less than 50 years ago Cavite, Laguna and Batangas were *probinsyas*. Today these are extensions of Metro Manila, forming a highly developed countryside. Traveling from Manila to Ilocos Sur and to Baguio last December, I didn't find a single traditional *bahay kubo* with a neat fence of bamboo around it and flower pots growing begonias.

Once upon a time, you could walk from your home to school, church and market. Not anymore. It isn't strange to find people who live in Cavite or Laguna or Batangas and work in Makati, Ortigas and Quezon City, rising at 4 a.m. and returning home at 9 or 10 p.m. The nearby provinces have turned into bedroom communities.

The question is really, how do you manage urban growth? Manila, for instance, was already producing 6,300 tons of solid waste in the 1990s without a waste management plant and scrounging around for landfills. Some years ago, Andres Duany, an American architect and city planner, observed that Metro Manila was adopting an outdated model of urban developments that had proven impractical in the West. He said it has nothing to do with standard of living, which focuses on how many high rises you might have or the height of your tallest building or even how many people own new houses. From this point of view, success is measured by how bad your traffic jams are and how tall your skyscrapers. It has everything to do with quality of life.

Now quality of life is something that appears to be beyond the grasp of your common garden-variety mayor. (Well, maybe Feliciano Belmonte and Bayani Fernando are exceptions, but we will observe.) What it defines is how well your people live. You think Tondo residents have been asked how pleasant it is to live around there? Is the air clean? (Please note that the Clean Air Act was passed some time ago. Apparently it didn't mean diddly-squat as far as the law enforcement agencies were concerned. I was informed I only had to pay P500 to avoid examination for smoke belching.)

The last question is really a bummer: Do people have enough income to buy good housing? That's really crappy. Now what mayor would like to answer that? And let's not speak of the cardboard hovels as compared to the mansions in the gated enclaves favored by their officials.

While the West is actually rethinking the California plan (more specifically Los Angeles) of sprawling suburbs of dormitory communities separated from dense cores of business and shopping areas where you need transport to ferry you from one to the other, we're still enamored of that LA style. As a result, we have cities stuffed with high rises surrounded by jammed highways, houses that sprawl where once there were rice fields and shopping malls built in the middle of busy highways to clog traffic even more.

Our problem is the feudal system that has remained in place from time immemorial. Citizens seldom have a say in urban development or whether a new mall is going up and constricts traffic in a main thoroughfare nor can they demand that their streets be pothole free. (Well, they could demand but it's not as though anyone in government would pay attention.) As for parks, have you heard any resident demand a park?

Consider Arroceros Forest Park, for instance, or Mehan Garden. Did the Manila mayor pay attention to the arguments that open areas are necessary for health reasons (not even aesthetics anymore) in a city of over 10 million inhabitants? Boldly declaring himself savior of Manila's heritage, he has managed to demolish the landmark Jai-Alai building, run roughshod over Mehan Garden, which he insisted was the only space left in the city to put up a college, and destroyed trees and seedlings and archaeological structures in Arroceros Park to construct more buildings when the lot next door is available.

Not content with that, the mayor has proceeded to commercialize Roxas Boulevard with what Fernando del Mundo, a former foreign correspondent, calls "clapboard eateries that dot the much ballyhooed baywalk of Mayor Lito Atienza." What made that boulevard world famous once upon a time—the fantastic sunset on Manila Bay—is gone. And get a load of the sputnik lamps standing nearly one on top of the other that has absolutely nothing to do with its heritage.

Sad to say, no senator or congressman interferes, perhaps believing that decisions concerning the country's capital city belong to the mayor alone. Nor do you hear residents protesting. This is what happens when we trust not in institutions but in ties of blood or religion, in patronage systems rather than democratic institutions. One can wish for a society where dependence on a single individual and cronyism has been eliminated. But just looking at our cities and the developments dispels any hope that is going to happen any time soon.

Despite public claims regarding the democratic process as well as our vaunted love of democracy, do officials actually invite and heed suggestions of their citizens in the decision-making process that affect their lives? For a city to work, citizens must feel part of it. Do they?

Big Sisters

YOUNG BLOOD

May Agaran

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

"BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING."

Whether it is the United States keeping tabs on how our country is being run or the TV show that capitalizes on the Pinoy's penchant for voyeurism, there always seems to be a shadow bigger than our own hovering over our lives. But to be literal about it, I have only one big brother to speak of. Big sisters I have plenty of, however.

In our family, females outnumber males by a ratio of two to one. I have one brother and three older sisters. And I've always had more female cousins than male ones. In family gatherings, there are always more aunts than uncles, more grandmothers than grandfathers. Even my friends, who are mostly older than me, are all women.

My sisters are three, seven and nine years older than I am. One still lives in Manila while the other two are in the land of the real Big Brother. The two abroad are the best of friends while my local *ate* is my own best friend and confidante. My two older sisters are separated by state boundaries, work schedules and the demands of a working mom's regimen. Nevertheless, they are just one phone call away from each other. Whenever a crisis arises, whether it's an over-waxed eyebrow or an extremely cranky toddler, they are there for each other, and boundaries be damned.

My other sister and I often switch roles when it comes to playing big sister. I always follow her advice about how to deal with people and before making decision regarding work and family matters. Since I was small, she has always acted like my little mother, patiently enduring my tantrums and my incessant whining. Up to now, whenever I can't help acting like a brat, a quick poke with her elbow shuts me up.

I play big sister to her when it comes to fashion and style (although I'm no trend setter myself) and lately, about surviving in the corporate world. She's in her first corporate job, you see, and she is experiencing all the jitters that fresh, 21-year-old graduates go through, except that she's 31 years old. Since I have had almost a decade-long love-hate relationship with my career, I provide her snippets of practical advice based on what I have learned through the years.

It is this give-and-take relationship I have with my sisters that keeps my feet on the ground and my head in the right place. People have told me time and again that I let my head rule over my heart more than I should. But that was what my sisters taught me: to be realistic, practical and pragmatic. To limit my "I feel" moments and instead focus on "I think." To set goals for myself and go for them the right way. To make decisions carefully and think how they might affect those closest to me. To never forget the values we were taught and the lessons we learned from our parents. To love each other because we're family. To always be there for each other and to be ready to forgive each other, no matter what the cause of friction.

I have friends whom I consider as my other big sisters, not just because they are older but because they stand for the same good things that my true sisters do. And just like true sisters, they are quick to listen to me and sympathize, cheer or even scold me whenever there is a need for it.

I treasure my big sisters, whether we are related by blood or not. Some became my big sisters without their knowing it while the rest seem to have assumed their roles naturally as our relationships matured and grew deeper. Most of them have seen me grow up from a little girl into woman while others became my friends through the most surprising ways.

While we run on just about the same estrogen level and share similar feminine wiles and woes, I also treasure out differences and each one's unique qualities. They have contributed to what I have become and what I may still become in the future. I soak up their wisdom and learn from their mistakes and mine. I hope I will grow up to be an amalgam of all that is good in them.

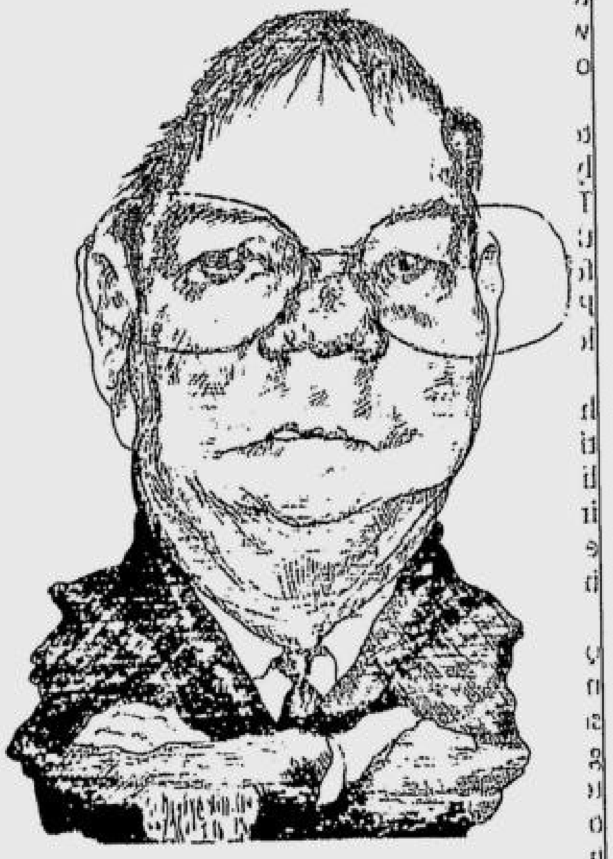
Big Brother may be great, but there's really nothing like having a Big Sister.

May Agaran, 29, works as a home-based editor and writer. She keeps 12 cats at home.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

IN THE NEWS



Jocelyn "Jocjoc" Bolante

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Pacman should stay out of politics

AFTER THAT SENSATIONAL 10-ROUND technical knockout victory scored by Manny Pacquiao over Erik Morales, suggestions or calls for Pacquiao to enter politics immediately followed. He was even touted to be the next "president" of the land. One congressman even said he would vote Pacquaio for prime minister!

But before Pacquiao could be persuaded by any power broker to enter the arena of politics, he better take the cue from another boxing legend, the late Gabriel Flash Elorde, former world junior lightweight champion and oriental lightweight champion in the 1960s. At the height of his popularity, Flash Elorde was also reported to be running for Congress.

On July 25, 1964, the Manila Times reported that Elorde "admitted he might run for Congress in the 1965 Philippine general elections." It was reported further that "Elorde would run under the Nacionalista Party banner to oppose Liberal incumbent Rep. Ramon Durano in the first district of Cebu."

However, the July 27, 1964 issue of Manila Times carried in its sports page a news item where "Elorde denies he's running for Congress." Elorde clarified that "he never had plans nor has any of entering politics at the expense of his career."

"At the expense of his career"—this should be the guiding principle for Pacquiao if ever he mulls over any plans to enter politics. He should take it from Elorde. Once he enters politics, Pacquiao will certainly sacrifice his career. Once he chooses or affiliates himself with a political party, he will be caught in the political crossfire of opposing candidates and political organizations.

Let's hope Pacquiao will not hang up his gloves for politics. He should follow the example set by Flash Elorde on this score. Pacquiao should set the standard that our politics should not be based on mere popularity but on the ability and competence of candidates to lead our nation to greatness. Pacquiao has his own role to play in the ring. He has played it well not only for himself but for our country's honor and jubilation. He should let it remain that way. Like the greatness exemplified by Gabriel "Flash" Elorde.

—ROMULO B. MACALINTAL,
Philamlife Village,
Las Piñas City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

More honorable than our political leaders

PERHAPS, BEFORE THIS LETTER GETS printed in the INQUIRER, Manny Pacquiao shall have been drowned in a pool of compliments and accolades. Nonetheless, though this may be late, I still cannot keep mum about the feat of this "poor boy from General Santos City" who single-handedly united all Filipinos not only in this country but all over the world.

He symbolizes a strong and fearless Filipino fighting for honor and unity amid the "billowing waves of political disunity and upheaval." Materially, he is now perceived to be rich. It should be noted that he acquired his wealth through sweat and blood before the eyes of millions of people, unlike corrupt public officials who amassed theirs through clandestine and illegal means.

His feat should remind our government officials and politicians that the public's respect cannot be gained through lofty titles, degrees or positions. This should remind them that anyone with no formal education, even if he is merely a former street vendor like Pacquiao, can give glory and honor to our country. This should make them see that Pacquiao, more than they, deserves the title "honorable."

—ABNER B. CABISUELAS,
Office of the Comelec Secretary,
Commission on Elections,
Intramuros, Manila

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Dark implications of 'graceful exit' scenario

OUR POLITICAL PROBLEM ISN'T REALLY difficult to resolve if only the majority of our people will understand the following:

The differing viewpoints in the marketplace did not produce a clear resolution to the problem because many gave so much importance to the suggestion of former President Fidel Ramos—made immediately after President Macapagal-Arroyo's apology—that we allow GMA a "graceful exit" through a transition period, during which a parliamentary form of government would be proposed for public approval. The suggestion implied that a shortened term for GMA would be sufficient punishment for the alleged election cheating.

But FVR is obviously not the law. The political crime of election fraud can only be decided by a court of law. Which, in fact, is being prevented by the Arroyo administration's rush into the motions of a Charter change. In other words, if we allow this deception to continue, the result will certainly be more serious than just a loss of self-respect.

—ERNESTO K. MAGTOTO,
ernestomagtoto@yahoo.com

Biggest threat to GMA's reign

THIS IS A REJOINDER TO AMANDO Doronila's Jan. 23 column, titled "New symptoms of military unrest emerging."

Why do coup plots and relentless mass protests continue to haunt the Arroyo regime? The answer is simple but it can't easily be resolved, not unless Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo make that one "ultimate sacrifice." This is so because of the people's deep distrust of the Arroyo presidency, coupled with the worsening economic depression.

As can be gleaned from the recent escape of the four Magdalo soldiers, there are elements or factions in the military that cannot reconcile with the worst crime ever committed against the Filipino nation by no less than their Commander in Chief. It is only understandable that not a few junior officers would rise against the corrupt system.

Lt. SG Antonio Trillanes said: "It's time for us to decide which side we will take, whether we are for GMA or for change." It is clear from his statement that GMA's political crisis is far from over.

Despite administration claims that the economy is now stronger because of Ms Arroyo's leadership, the people may yet find themselves deeper in a bigger poverty hole as this year progresses. A much bigger amount is still being set aside for debt-servicing than for basic social services.

Ms Arroyo should realize that more than any coup or military uprising, the greatest threat to her continued stay in Malacañang is the people with hungry stomachs.

—ZAYNAB AMPATUAN,
Suara Bangsamoro Party-list (Cotabato)

Destabilizers in government

BRAVO FOR YOUR JAN. 25 EDITORIAL TItled "Suicidal provocation."

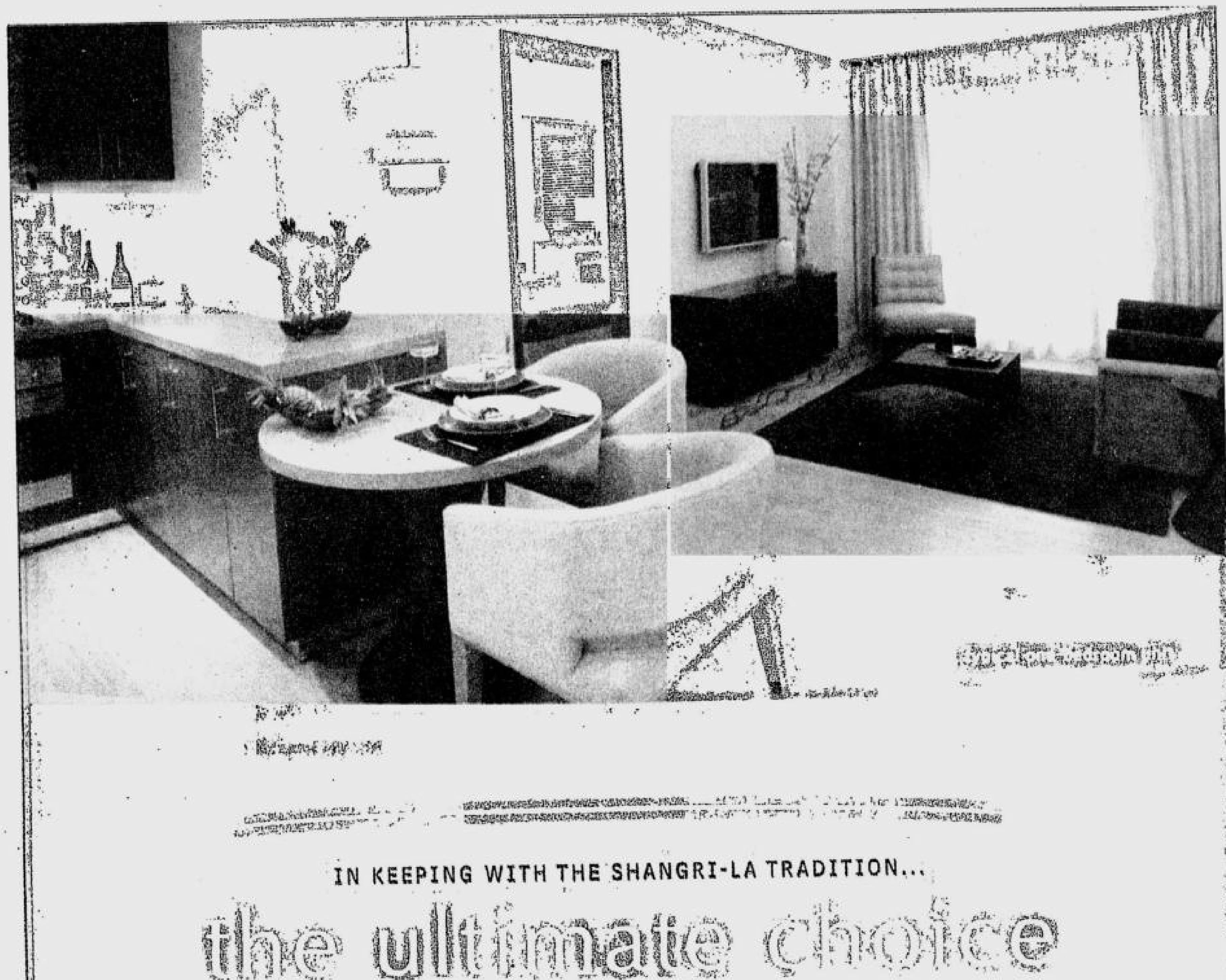
By their recent pronouncements and press releases, officials of the Arroyo administration, including her not-quite-able generals, are themselves propagating dissent and challenging the discontented Filipinos and soldiers to stage an armed revolt. By their reckless actions, they themselves become instruments of destabilization against the Republic.

The nation should come to its senses! Can't the people see that their very own government has just threatened to utterly destroy an already very wobbly Republic?

The media should continue to expose the ineptitude of Secretary Mike Defensor, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, AFP Chief Gen. Generoso Senga. Their pronouncements definitely cause destabilization. Their motive is evident—they want to divide and conquer.

The media and the intelligent people left in the country (what with over 8 million or so Pinoys of better caliber having left for greener pastures abroad) should train their guns on this corrupt government before it transforms the country into another Rwanda!

—ANNA DE BRUX,
anna-de-brux@chello.be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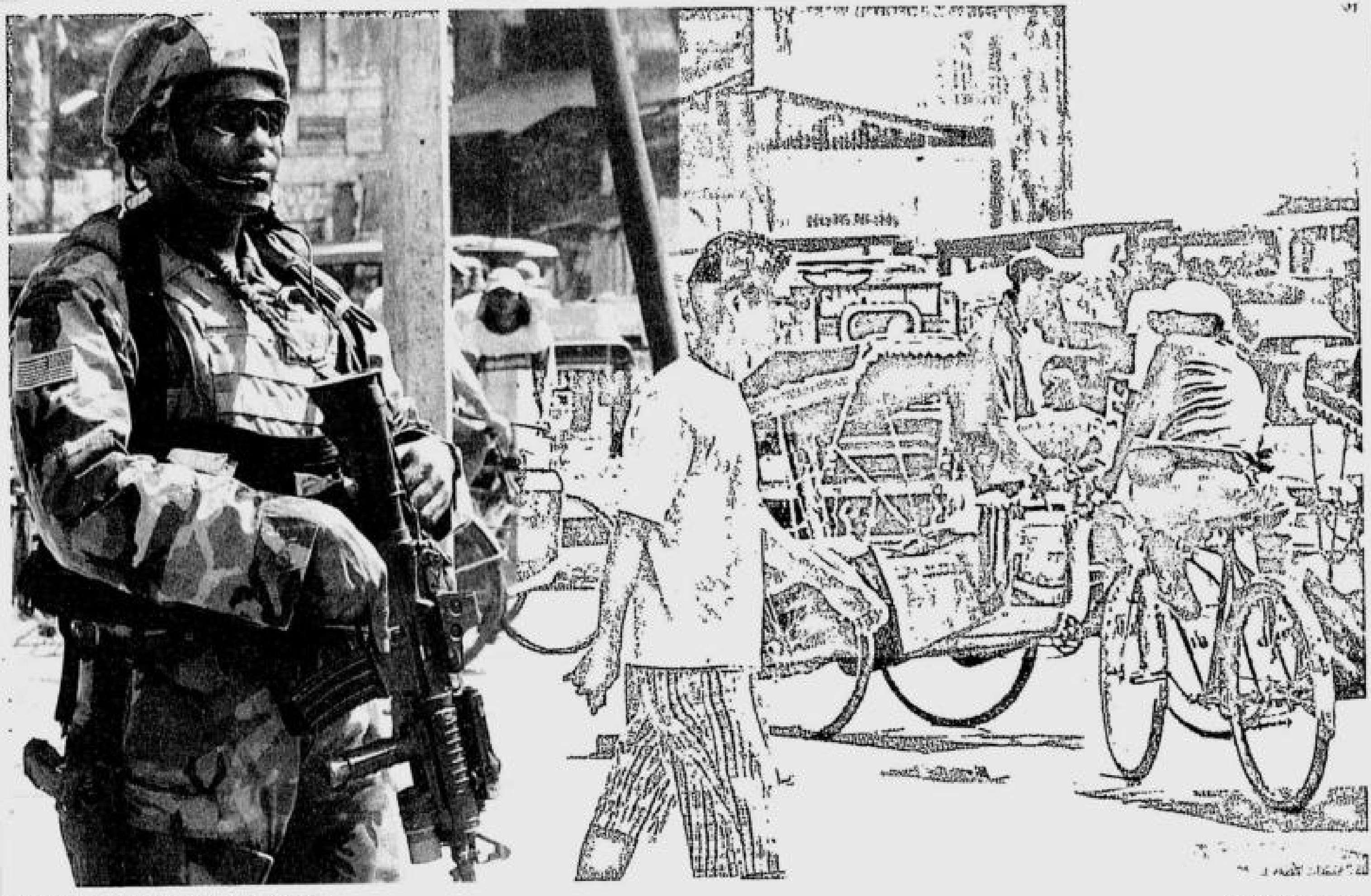

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE THERENCE KOH/AFP

A normally busy street in downtown Jolo, Sulu starts to look like one in Baghdad or Kabul with the presence of US soldiers who were scouring Jolo's surroundings for threats to a large contingent of American troopers who are to arrive for antiterror exercises and a humanitarian mission.

2 PDI staffers post bail for libel from mayor in infra scam

BUTUAN CITY—TWO INQUIRER correspondents here posted bail after a warrant of arrest was issued against them in connection with a libel case filed by former city mayor Leonides Plaza.

Kristina Cassion, editor in chief of the defunct local tabloid Mindanao Newswatch, and reporter Franklin Caliguid were each charged with P20-million libel as a result of a published letter sent through mail by a certain Mario Abiso in 2002.

The letter alleged that Adfil, a local construction company, won the bidding for a road project of Barangay Bonbon to Barangay Nongnong by paying P8 million to the female mayor.

The letter also alleged that the mayor used the money for her trip to China bringing along her husband, former mayor Democrito Plaza and several office staffers. The letter added that Plaza then boasted that the city government did not spend a single centavo for that trip.

Plaza denied the contents of the letter and filed a libel case against the editor and two staff members of the tabloid.

Cassion and Caliguid were holding a press conference regarding the case this morning when police officers came and informed them about the arrest warrant. Cassion instead showed the police the order of release issued by a local trial court as they have already posted the bail bond on Wednesday.

Gluce Jayma, legal counsel for the journalists, said that in this country, when journalists truthfully exercise their profession, they either get killed or harassed with libel suits.

"The freedom of the press, long enshrined under the Constitution and held by our forefathers, is presently under threat by the killings of journalists and other forms of tyrannical actions by some public figures," Jayma said.

Prior to this case, Plaza also filed a libel case against radio commentators of Radyo Bombo Butuan and led a rally to close it down. *Ramon Sarabosing, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Napocor told: Pay for Semirara spill

THE CHAIR OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT urged the National Power Corp. to compensate residents of Semirara who are to suffer from what was described as the country's worst oil spill ever from a Napocor power barge.

"The full cost of cleansing up the oil spill has already been estimated at P90 million—and this still does not cover the rehabilitation of damages to the environment and people's livelihood," said Sen. Pia Cayetano.

Cayetano said one of the recommendations of a DENR assessment and valuation team that visited Semirara from Jan. 19-23 was to "expedite the payment of damages" since the oil spill is expected to deprive residents in the area of livelihood for up to 12 months.

The DENR team also suggested that the residents be given livelihood programs "until such time that they can return to their normal livelihood activities," she added.

Caluya Mayor Domingo Frangue Jr. earlier said the oil spill destroyed the livelihood of at least 2,000 residents of Barangay Semirara who are dependent on seaweed farming and fishing.

Based on the report of the DENR team, Cayetano said the actual damages and loss of income caused by the oil spill on Semirara residents reached P6 million.

The amount does not include the P1.6 million cost of the damage the oil spill had on Semirara's mangrove areas, Cayetano said.

Cayetano said the DENR team also proposed that a final disposal site for the contaminated materials be set up in Sitio Libo-o on Semirara Island, which is about 2 km from Barangay Semirara.

Cayetano said her committee would start its investigation of the oil spill in two weeks.

Another senator, Edgardo Angara, said the DENR should immediately form a task force to clean up the spill.

He said more than a month after the spill on Dec. 18, only 7 percent of the 236 hectares that were contaminated had been cleaned up. *Philip Tubeza*

Exec of firm that won ₱350M Batangas project arrested on copyright charges

CALAMBA CITY—A TOP OFFICIAL OF A company involved in the controversial P350-million computerization project of Batangas was arrested by elements of the Intellectual Property Division of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Thursday.

Teresita de Mesa, chief executive officer of Automatic Data Processing Technologies (ADPT), was apprehended inside the company's office in Sikatuna Village, Quezon City.

ADPT was the main proponent of the computerization of the real property tax collection of the Batangas provincial government which, as Vice Gov. Ricky Recto alleged, was loaded with anomalies.

Recto earlier alleged that ADPT was a dummy corporation of Batangas Gov. Armand Sanchez. Sanchez had denied the allegation.

The arrest, ordered by a Quezon City regional trial court, was in connection with an estafa case filed by Amellar Corp. where De Mesa formerly worked as a top officer.

Amellar also filed cases of violation of the Intellectual Property and the E-Commerce Law against De Mesa.

Amellar accused De Mesa of "failure to return and for conversion for her own personal benefit and use several computer paraphernalia belonging to (Amellar)."

The company, which pioneered the computerization of the real property tax collection, said "it was impossible for De Mesa's company to develop the software they offered to Batangas in only a matter of weeks."

Amellar said their software for real property tax administration and other systems used by local government units "was illegally copied by De Mesa and her company and sold to the province of Batangas."

Last Nov. 16, 2005, Victor Fernandez, deputy Ombudsman for Luzon, handed a six-month preventive suspension on six members of the capitol's Bids and Awards Committee.

The anti-graft court likewise issued a cease and desist order to stop the payment for the controversial project.

De Mesa's company was incorporated only in January 2005 with a paid up capital of P312,000, and won, the P350-million project.

Among ADPT's owners were a niece of Sanchez and Raymundo Roquero, an undersecretary for political affairs and a long time associate of Sanchez, who was tagged in the Senate as one of the country's biggest gambling lords. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Comelec deadlocked on Tanauan case

A DEADLOCKED COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (Comelec) *en banc* has failed to overturn a decision by its Second Division late last year installing Sonia Torres-Aquino as the mayor of Tanauan City, Batangas.

On Feb. 1, the six-member commission moved to grant a motion for reconsideration filed by Alfredo Corona to nullify the Second Division's order and writ of execution removing him from the Tanauan city hall, including reverting to the status quo prior to the decision declaring Aquino the winner last Dec. 22, 2005.

The Comelec *en banc*, however, failed to muster the mandatory majority of four votes among the commissioners. The voting was tied between Chair Benjamin Abalos and Commissioner Florentino Tuazon Jr. voting in favor, Commissioners Mehol Sadain and Rufino Javier dissenting and Commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Romeo Brawner inhibiting themselves.

According to the Comelec's rules of procedure, deadlocked votes of the commission *en banc* on appealed cases affirms the original decision.

Lawyer George Erwin Garcia, counsel for Aquino, has informed the Comelec that Aquino was to assume office yesterday (Feb. 2).

In a manifestation filed yesterday, Garcia told the commission this was necessary "to give meaning and substance" to the original resolution of the Comelec declaring Aquino mayor and ordering the Department of Interior and Local Governments (DILG), Philippine National Police (PNP) and the provincial election supervisor of Batangas to install her as mayor and remove Corona from the city hall. *Gina Rodriguez, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Myla's legacy in small Bohol village

By Chito A. Fuentes
Inabanga, Bohol

THERE IS LITTLE TO REMIND VISITORS IN BARANGAY U-OG IN Inabanga, Bohol of the burial ceremonies given to Filipino-American Sgt. Myla Lumayag Maravillosa two weeks ago.

Maravillosa, who died in Iraq on Christmas Eve when Iraqi insurgents fired rocket-propelled grenades into the Humvee she was riding in, was buried at the village cemetery on Jan. 19 after ceremonial taps and a 21-gun salute performed by members of the US Honor Guards.

Present were top officials of Bohol, Brig. Gen. Gregory Schumacher, acting US Deputy Chief of Mission Scott Bellard, and Col. Matias Velasco of the Joint United States Military Advisory Group.

A streamer that still flutters across the national highway near the U-og Ubujan Elementary School, 66 km north of Tagbilaran City, is all that is left of the day the remote village landed in the news.

On the road to Sitio Banilad, only a single hand-made Philippine flag fitted in a wooden fence was a reminder of the tens of small flags that children waved as the hearse carrying Myla's coffin passed by.

High-profile wake

There were few signs of the high-profile wake, even at the Lumayag residence where Myla's remains stayed for nine days. The huge streamers that hung during the wake had been taken down from the fences.

Myla's mother, Estelita, was in her day-to-day clothes while cleaning the yard when the INQUIRER arrived last week. Later that day, the week-long prayer for the 40th day of Myla's death would start.

Inside the house, though, Myla's memorabilia still dominated the living room. The candle holders were gathered on a table pushed against the wall where framed citations of the awards given posthumously to Myla stood.

Estelita admitted the obvious: She has not gotten over the death of her only child.

"I'm just going through the motions, but I haven't gotten over it," she said in a mixture of English and Cebuano.

Estelita said that aside from concerns related to Myla's death, she had to make arrangements for her younger sister, Felisa, who has been bedridden for four years in a private hospital in Tagbilaran. It was Felisa, with her elder brother Gaudioso, who took care of Myla when Estelita left to work in Hawaii.

Foundation for Myla

With so much to do, Estelita said she sometimes glosses over the reality that her daughter is gone forever.

She said, however, that she hoped to put up a project to make U-og remember Myla.

"Maybe we will help in the feeding of malnourished children," Estelita said, noting that her daughter loved children.

Gladys Lumayag, 12, said her now-famous cousin would bring her along to visit their aunt in Tagbilaran during the times she went home.

Priscilla Cellan, 48, recalled that when she was pregnant with her 11th child Emily, Myla would frequent their house just behind the Lumayag residence.

"Even at the time, she already expressed her desire to be a soldier, playing more with toy guns because her playmates, her cousins and our neighbors, including my son, were mostly male," Priscilla said.

She said during one of her visits from Hawaii, Myla gave her children chocolates, soap and canned goods.

Last remark

"I was startled when she remarked, 'Will we see each other again?,'" Priscilla recalled Myla asking the last time she came over in 2003.

Priscilla said she quickly admonished Myla not to say anything like that. The soldier merely smiled while stroking the hair of her daughter.

Inabanga Mayor Josephine Socorro Jumamoy said Estelita's desire to start a foundation in honor of Myla would be most welcome.

"Any foundation that will contribute to the development of U-og is welcome. It is even more so if it comes from one who has given honor to U-og and Inabanga," she said.

US HONOR Guards perform a 21-gun salute in honor of a fallen comrade, Myla Maravillosa, during her burial at the U-og cemetery. NILO SAPONG

Jumamoy said that Estelita informally broached the idea during Myla's burial. "I told her she can count on my support."

The mayor said this would be an appropriate way to honor Myla, widely believed by her relatives to be considering life as a nun when her military stint was over. "That would be the best memorial for one who lived a life of service," she added.

Back to normal

Life has returned to normal in U-og, concedes village chair Cecilio Villamor, 62.

But he added that Myla and her death would long become a subject of talk in the little village.

"People are still talking about her death, why she had to die at so young an age," he said.

"U-og natives now living outside the province and even those in neighboring villages say other people have become aware of a village named U-og," he said, smiling.

The elementary school principal, Oscar Suarez, said the pupils were constantly talking about Myla. "She has become an idol."

Suarez said Myla was in the list of successful graduates whom he intended to tap for a fishpond project that he hoped would be his legacy to the school. With her death and his retirement on Feb. 2, Suarez said it would be up to his successor to complete it.

Like Villamor, Suarez said it remained to be seen whether Myla's death would have any visible effects on the village despite knowing of Estelita's plan to put up a foundation in her daughter's honor.

Secret no more

Although founded as a village in 1890, U-og has remained a secret beyond Inabanga. Taken from the Cebuano word "*ug-og*," which old-timers used to describe the slow cascading waters in the brook near the village cemetery, the place has lived up to its name.

Now a shell of its original size after two villages were carved out of it, U-og has a population of only 1,048 in 198 households spread over 153 hectares of land.

All that changed with Myla's death as U-og figured in media reports as the "little village where she grew up."

In death, the woman patriot, who once envisioned herself "more with a Bible in hand than rifle," single-handedly introduced U-og to the outside world.

While she admitted that Myla's prominence was beyond her wildest dreams, Estelita would rather have it another way as only a mother could see it.

A nun's e-mail

"I would rather that no one paid attention to us, if that would have prevented Myla from being taken away from us," she said sadly.

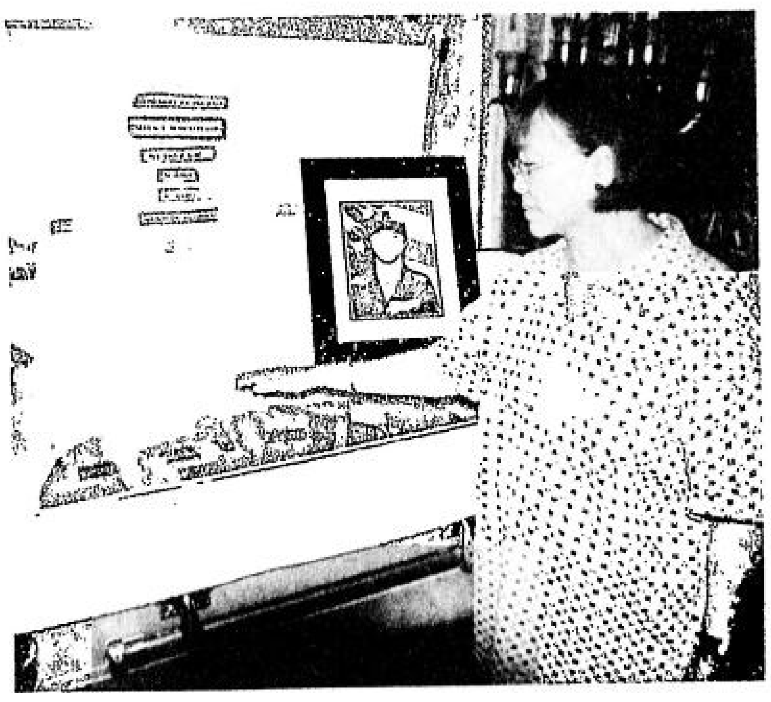
Perhaps, an e-mail Myla sent to a Sister Margaret of the Daughters of St. Paul in the United States could be the best reassurance to Estelita and all those who treasure her memory. She sent it after arriving in Iraq on a new assignment.

"I am still remaining in Him, but deep inside I am still having a hard time accepting... and wished to be somewhere else," her e-mail went.

Definitely, she is now "somewhere else," far away from rocket-propelled grenades and the horrors of war.

It may not have crossed Myla's mind but her death may send children of U-og "somewhere else," to a better state than where they are now.

US SOLDIERS remove the American flag on top of Myla's coffin. PDI PHOTO


MYLA'S MOTHER, Emily, views her daughter's remains at the wake in the family residence. NILO SAPONG

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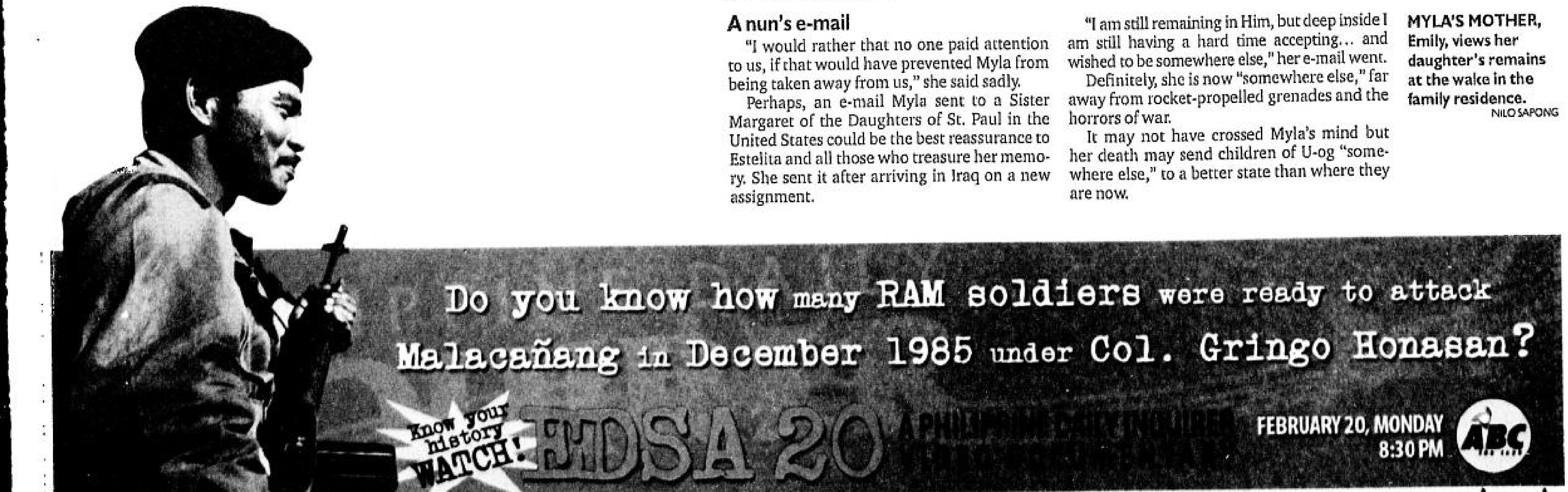
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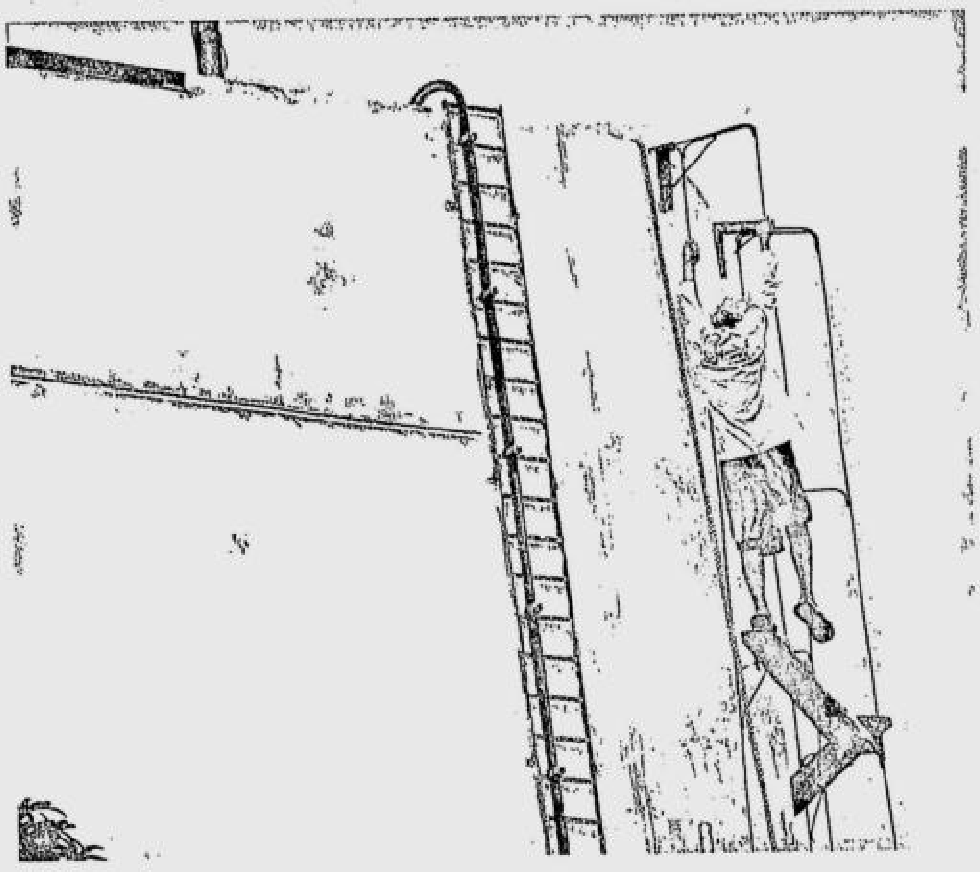


DANGEROUS JOB
A worker without any safety gear makes his way down a building in Quezon City after a painting job.
RAFFY LERMA

Fast food manager kills boss, himself

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE POLICE ARE LOOKING AT TWO motives—professional jealousy or personal reasons—that led to the shooting of the manager of a popular fast food restaurant by her assistant.

Suspect Luis Perez, 37, of Sampaloc, Manila, committed suicide after shooting Olive Fernandez, 32, of No. 79 A. Flores St., Bagong Ilog, Pasig City, inside the kitchen of a McDonald's franchise on Taft Avenue beside De la Salle University shortly before a staff meeting yesterday afternoon.

The suspect, an assistant manager at the fast food restaurant, allegedly used a 9 mm pistol in the two incidents. Supt. Marcelino Pedrozo Jr., Manila Police District Station 9 chief, said the shooting could have been work related.

Pedrozo said the victim assumed the branch's top position only yesterday, following the departure of the previous manager.

"The suspect may have killed the victim out of professional jealousy," Pedrozo said.

The police official said they were also considering personal reasons as a motive. "The suspect and the victim were apparently close friends. They took their meals together," Pedrozo said.

When asked if Fernandez and Perez were romantically involved, Pedrozo simply replied that the suspect was single, but Fernandez was a married woman.

Initial investigation showed that the victim and other staff members, including the suspect, were about to start their meeting around 2 p.m. when two shots were fired.

After shooting Fernandez, the suspect climbed to the rooftop and shot himself in the head, the police said. Fernandez, who was also hit in the head, was declared dead on arrival at the Manila Sanitarium Hospital.

"We have yet to get statements from the staff who refused to give any details about the incident," Pedrozo said. He added that because the incident happened after the peak hours, only a few customers heard the shots.

"We only heard the final shot when the suspect appeared to have killed himself," said a DLSU student, who was outside the fast-food branch during the police investigation.

The police official explained that the suspect was off duty during the incident, and was wearing a blue-collared shirt over a gray T-shirt and shorts underneath his pants. A spare magazine for the gun was recovered inside his pocket, Pedrozo said.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER by Philip Cuazon Jr., franchisee of McPhilip Food Industries Inc., he said: "I deeply regret this unfortunate incident and grieve over the loss. My staff and I sympathize with the respective families. We will work closely with the authorities to uncover the truth about this isolated incident."

Jinggoy: no moral authority to scold

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

RISING ON A QUESTION OF PERSONAL privilege on Monday, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada told his colleagues that the item about him in this space last Saturday was "malicious" and "all lies."

He said I engaged in "rumor-mongering" when I wrote Saturday's column about him.

C'mon, Mr. Senator, don't be a hypocrite! Everybody at the Bureau of Customs knew the smugglers you were allegedly protecting when your father was still in power.

Your Honor, Sir Jinggoy, I have the complete list of smugglers who allegedly enjoyed your protection at the time your father was still in power. If your colleagues in the Senate want to know who they are, I will gladly hand them the list.

But Jinggoy himself dug up his alleged misdeeds at the piers when he pontificated during the Senate hearing on the national budget.

The other pair of the mother-son team at the Senate scolded Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales for the rampant smuggling at the piers and the customs zones, which include bonded warehouses.

The young Estrada was one of three senators who grilled Morales at the hearing. The others were Frank Drilon and Juan Ponce Enrile. Drilon and Enrile had the moral authority to grill Morales as they never protected smugglers.

But when Jinggoy was heard scolding Morales, I was surprised why the new customs chief didn't throw up. During the Senate hearing, Jinggoy asked Morales whether or not he knew three alleged smugglers.

What hypocrisy! These men the senator from San Juan mentioned were his father's close friends!

* * *

DEPUTY Customs Commissioner Celso Templo, in charge of the bureau's intelligence and law enforcement group, said he would investigate reports about the alleged involvement of the siblings Vicky and Tom Toh in smuggling activities.

But he said he has to gather evidence against them first. Otherwise the customs bureau can't charge them, he added. "We have to go through due process in going after them, Mon," Templo said.

* * *

AT the rate the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines appears to be interfering in affairs of the state, it's not too far off when the country will have a theocracy, a government run by the religious.

This is a throwback to the Spanish era when the friars had a big say in running the government. Perhaps our bishops are envious of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini who ruled Iran years ago with an iron hand.

'Diliman commune' remembered

By DJ Yap

MEMBERS OF THE HISTORIC "DILIMAN Commune" will march again today to relive the events of Feb. 4-9, 1971 when the university community barricaded the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City, in defiance of government and the military.

They will revisit old grounds they boldly declared closed to elements of an abusive leadership 35 years ago.

The day will be not only one of remembrance and reunion, but also of self-examination.

"Have we retained the spirit of the Diliman commune? That's the question we will ask ourselves," said Susan Macabuag, women's rights advocate who, as a member of the Samahang Demokratiko ng Kabataan (SDK), was part of the commune.

"For the most part, I think the answer is yes," she said. "You don't just lose the idealism, the spirit of camaraderie, friendship and service to the people." Juan Perez, a doctor and another SDK member, said many of the participants did not lose their fervor but found a different way to express their idealism.

Some 200 SDK members are expected to participate in the laying of wreaths and join an interfaith service by a marker commemorating the event along University Avenue.

They will also march around the Academic Oval, and share their experiences with others.

The Diliman commune "was proof that the youth could be one with the community, that they could be a catalyst for change," said Macabuag.

Thirty-five years ago, the UP community blockaded all entry and exit points to the campus for one week, barring all vehicles from entering in protest against military intervention in the university.

The commune got outside help. Macabuag remembered that Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino went to the campus to offer support.

The February '71 events were triggered by the death of Pastor Mesina, a freshman shot by a professor in a human barricade protesting oil price hikes.

Macabuag said it was a shame many UP students do not even know what the Diliman commune meant, or what was its place in history.

METROBRIEFS

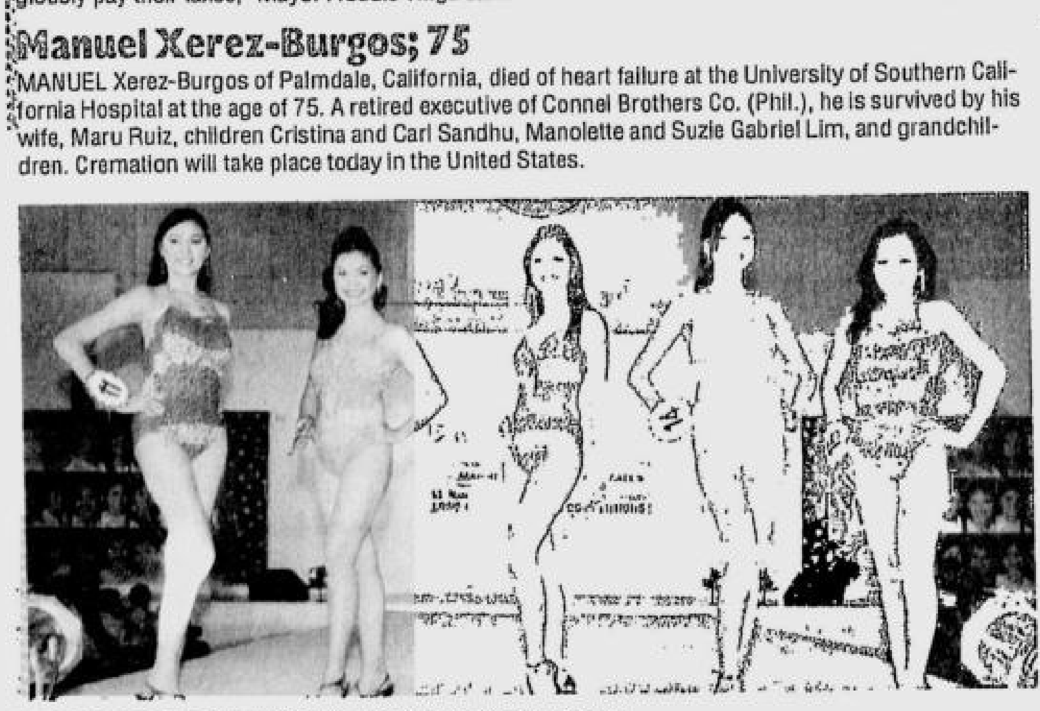
Improved service pays off for Taguig

DESPITE lower tax rates, Taguig City's coffers showed more than P200 million in gross revenues for January, posting an almost 50 percent increase from last year's earnings, City Hall announced yesterday. Its total tax collection last month was 49-percent higher than the revenues earned for the same month last year, which city officials pegged at P140 million. It also noted that the figures exceeded the month's P144 million-target collection. In 2003, the city coffers counted more than P880 million in total revenues, reaching the P950 million-mark the following year. Local government authorities attributed this to "improved and professional service," such as the opening of satellite government centers in the city's key areas, the shift to a computerized system, an intensified campaign for efficient tax collection, and the creation of a customer service office and a one-stop shop for taxpayers. Last year, the City Council passed an ordinance amending certain provisions of the local revenue code, bringing down local taxes applied on banks, financial institutions, insurance companies, telecommunications, light industries and manufacturing terms. "With these new incentives, we want the business sector to be our development partners. But to enable the local government to vigorously pursue development plans for Taguig, everyone from the private sector should also religiously pay their taxes," Mayor Freddie Tinga said.

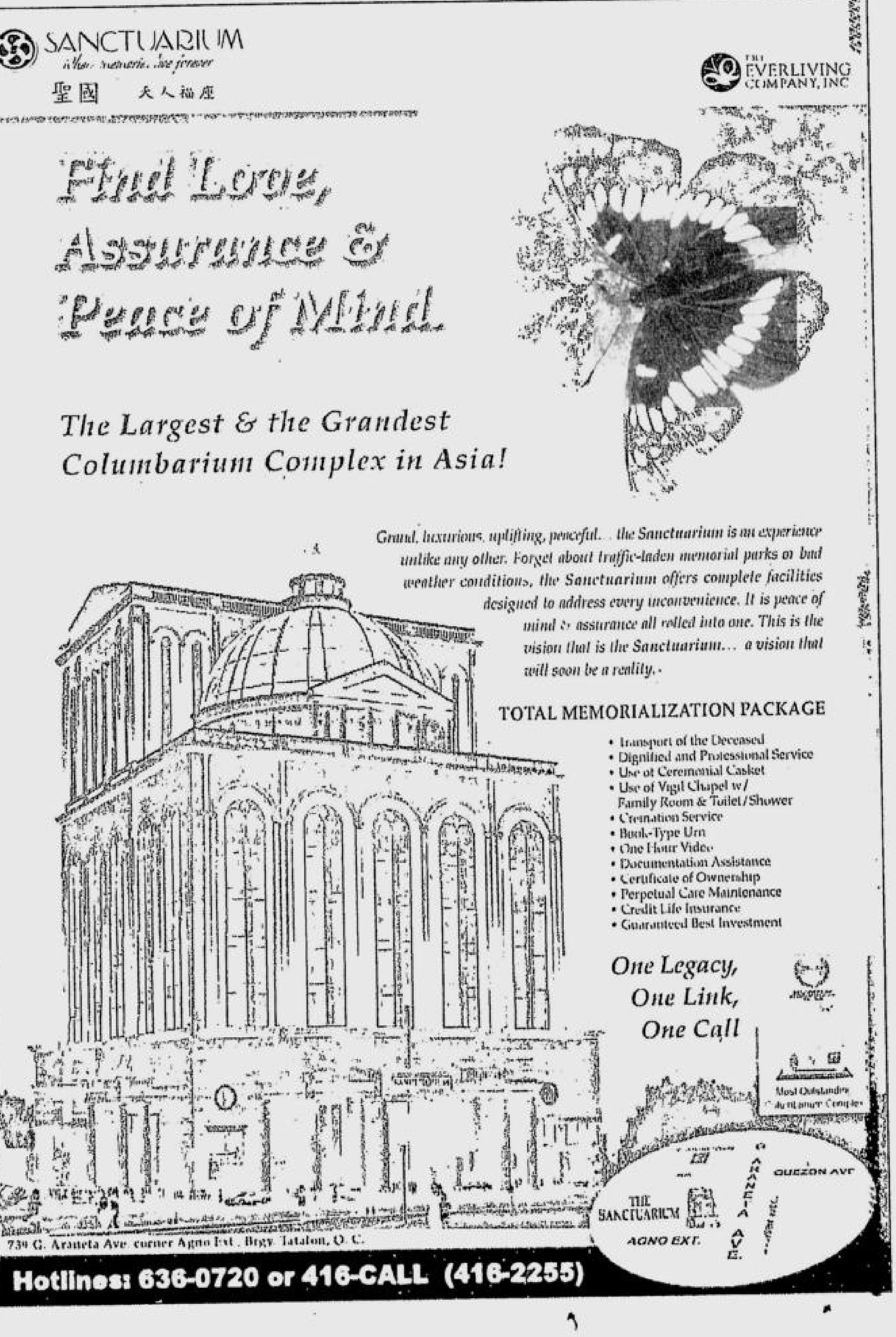
Jocelyn R. Uy

Manuel Xerez-Burgos; 75

MANUEL Xerez-Burgos of Palmdale, California, died of heart failure at the University of Southern California Hospital at the age of 75. A retired executive of Connel Brothers Co. (Phil.), he is survived by his wife, Maru Ruiz, children Cristina and Carl Sandhu, Manolette and Suzie Gabriel Lim, and grandchildren. Cremation will take place today in the United States.



MISS MANDALUYONG CHOSEN TONIGHT
Mandaluyong City celebrates its Liberation Day on Feb. 9 with a series of activities to mark its 12th year of citihood, including the search for Miss Mandaluyong 2006. Five of the 15 semifinalists are shown in photo. Five finalists will be crowned at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel tonight. Mandaluyong Mayor Neptali Gonzales III and his wife Queenie are the special guests of the affair.



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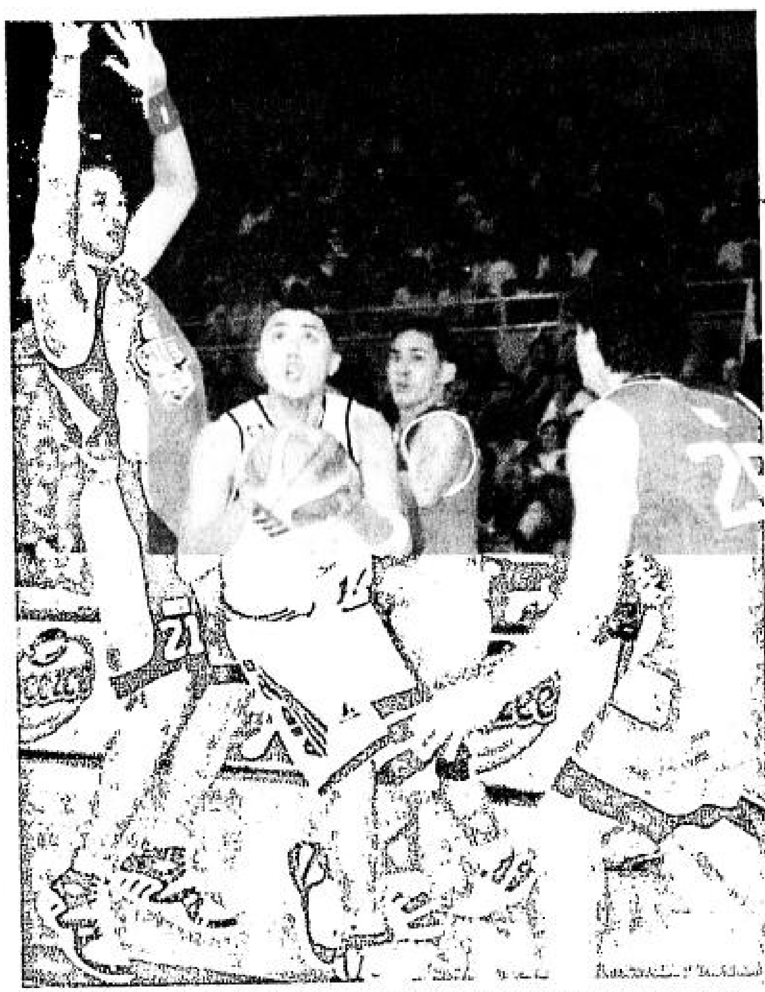

RENREN Ritualo of Air21 drives through a trio of Purefoods defenders. The Express and the Giants were still playing at presstime. RUDY ESPERAS

Kings force KO game

By June Navarro

ERIC MENK HAS BECOME THE gauge of Barangay Ginebra's bumpy trip in the semifinals.

Last night, Menk was in his element. And it wasn't hard to guess where the Kings were.

They stood at the better end of a thrilling 85-77 decision last night, sewing up a victory at the Cuneta Astrodome that forced a Game 7 in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference.

Though much of the credit of Ginebra's win fell on the monster performance of Chris Porter, Menk's 19 points and eight rebounds in 35 minutes were more than enough to square the best-of-seven series after six games.

"We're now in the same boat," said Barangay Ginebra coach Siot Tanquingcen, who will be calling the shots in a Game 7 for the first time in his coaching career. "It will now boil down to this one game that both of us badly need."

Menk averaged only seven points in Ginebra's three losses in the series (Games 2, 3 and 4) while tossing 22 points per outing in Games 1 and the past two games.

Porter fired 24 points and posted a conference-high 30 rebounds while Mark Caguioa and rookie Mark Macapagal added 14 and 10 points each for the Kings, who will be riding on a piece of history during the series' decider.

Coached by Sonny Jaworski and reinforced by Jervis Cole, the Kings own the distinction of becoming the only team in league history to overturn a 1-3 deficit and win a best-of-seven series over Shell in the 1991 First Conference.

"It's good if we duplicate that feat but we're not thinking about it," said Tanquingcen. "Anything can happen on Sunday."

The Bulls succumbed to turnovers and poor field-goal shooting in the fourth after overhauling a 13-point deficit and seizing a 67-63 lead.

Successive miscues by Mick Pennisi, Enrico Villanueva and rookie Larry Fonancier hastened Red Bull's downfall in the closing minutes.

After scoring 34 points in the third, the Bulls went 4-of-14 from the field and only had 10 points in the final quarter. They had six points in the second period, matching an all-time franchise low in a quarter back in 2000 against Shell.

Another thing going for the Kings tomorrow is Tanquingcen's batting average on do-or-die games. Tanquingcen had hurdled five of six make-or-break matches in his term as Ginebra mentor.

The scores:

First Game

GINEBRA 85—Porter 24, Menk 19, Caguioa 14, Macapagal 10, Adducul 8, Helterbrand 6, Santos 4, Dimaunahan 0.

RED BULL 77—Villanueva 20, Penny 13, Pennisi 12, Fonacier 10, Robinson 7, Cruz 7, Baguio 3, Tugade 3, Torion 2, Najorda 0, Bugia 0, Valenzuela 0.

Quarters: 22-27, 44-33, 63-67, 85-77.

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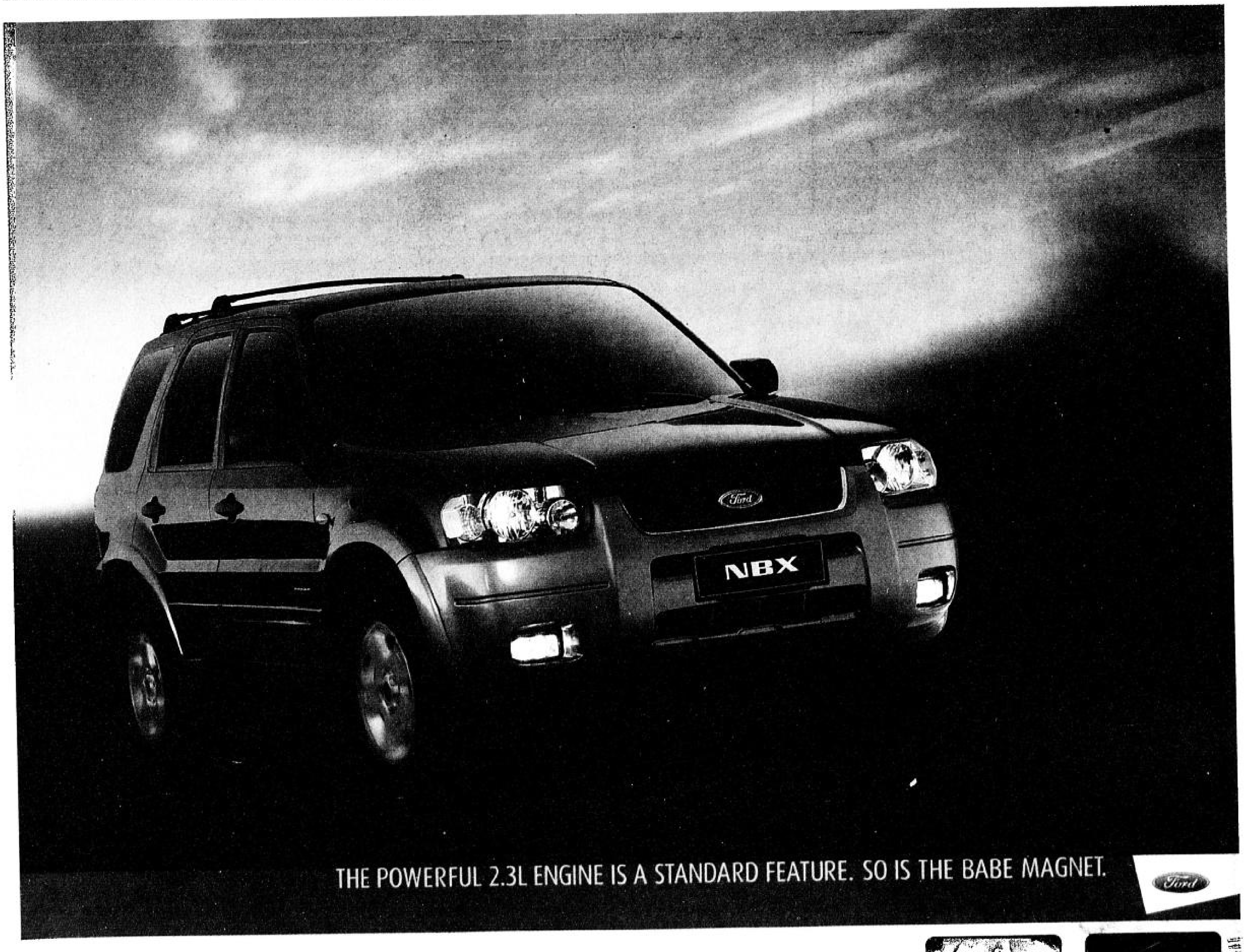

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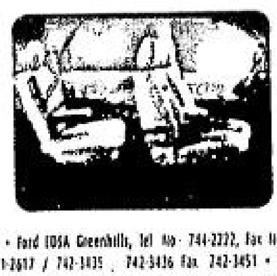

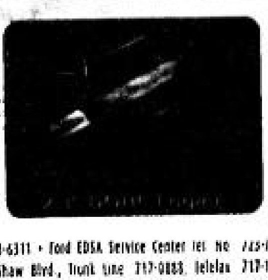

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World body will decide if Singson can still fight

By Musong R. Castillo

ESTHER MARIE SINGSON MAY OR MAY not be stripped of her Southeast Asian Games gold medal—but her career in the sport hangs in the balance.

Only the World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) can impose sanctions on drug offenders in the sport like Singson, and Philippine Taekwondo Association vice-president Sung Chong Hong will fly to South Korea very soon to personally plead his ward's case.

Singson could lose her SEAG gold if the SEAG Federation, which convenes next month, finds her guilty and nullifies her victory.

The WTF, however, will decide whether the Filipino bantamweight can fight in the Asian Games in December or the Olympics in 2008.

Hong, a Korean master of the sport who now holds Filipino citizenship, is said to have considerable clout in WTF executive board, of which he is a member.

"He (Hong) will go there (South Korea) and meet with the WTF officials even before they summon us," PTA president Robert Aventajado told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

"We will try to find out this early what sanctions, if any, will be given (to Singson)."

Aventajado, in a separate statement, also clarified that he was not blaming Dr. Raul Canlas and the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine for Singson's predicament.

"I am not blaming Dr. Canlas," Aventajado wrote. "I am merely pointing out the inadequacy of the PCSM, which is not the fault of Dr. Canlas."

The World Anti-Doping Agency clinic in Beijing that tested Singson positive for diuretics—a substance that is banned because it can shield steroid use—is mandated by international sports federations to report all drug cases.

Singson faces a ban of up to two years from both local and international tournaments.

Meanwhile, Singson, yesterday said that everyone in the PTA—from coaches to fellow players—knew she was drinking a popular herbal slimming tea brand to shed off excess weight.

"They (coaches) saw me drinking slimming tea, but they did not say anything," said the 18-year-old Singson in Filipino yesterday during a Scoop session at the Kamayan on Padre Faura. "Almost all of us take it, especially if we're trying to lose weight."

Singson's statement was the complete opposite of what Canlas, the PCSM head, said on Thursday. He said he was assured by a PTA coach that he had warned Singson and the rest of the team "not to take anything unusual."

MOVIE actress Isabel Granada dives to return a drop shot in the first leg of the Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball tourney at the Clearwater Country Club in Clark Field. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Granada duo blasts volley foe

CLARK FIELD, PAMPANGA—ACTRESS ISABEL Granada teamed up with Ramo Cyril Jaro in crushing St. Francis bets Ingrid Verayo and Aprilyn Mojica, 21-14, in the opening round of the 2006 Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball tournament at the Clearwater Country Club here.

The Angeles City-based Granada, who left competitive beach volleyball for two years due to marriage, took charge early, hitting the decisive spikes which gave her team a 6-1 advantage. Their foes never threatened from there.

Joining Granada and Jaro in the list of early winners were the pairs of Charizza Castro and Lorna dela Cruz, and the Lanuevo sisters Genevieve and Jennifer.

Mark Lord, operations manager of Clearwater Country Club, made the ceremonial serve to open the tournament held in cooperation with Speedo, Asian College of Science and Technology (Acsat), Clearwater Country Club and Mikasa.

Castro and Dela Cruz, a pair of freshmen campaigners from Acsat, walloped Sheila Dumrique and Jessy Dumagat, 21-12, while the Lanuevo sisters survived a closely fought contest over Acelyn Dubiao and Sarah Gonzaga, 22-20.

The series of tourneys will gather all the season's winners and their runners-up in a grand finals at the end of the year. The second leg will be held at the Manila Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard.

After gaining a 13-8 edge, Castro and Dela Cruz raced to 19-8 with a stron of drop shots.

Trailing at 18-20, the Lanuevos turned the tables around following Dubiao's net error.

The elder Genevieve then fired a service winner, which bounced away from Gonzaga's closed fist, giving the Lanuevos the win.

Brian looks up to Manny

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

MOST OF YOU MUST HAVE heard about WBC light flyweight champ Brian Viloria's first title defense against Mexican Jose "El Jaguar" Aguirre on Feb.18 (Feb.19 in Manila) at the Aladdin Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, a co-main event of the twin-bill "Real Warriors" also featuring Antonio Margarito versus Manuel Gomez.

What you most likely have not gotten wind of are the names of the annotators who will do the blow-by blow report of the Viloria-Aguirre fight for the Filipino audience.

I guess I must have been one of the firsts to be told by Solar Entertainment COO Peter Chanliong, whom I bumped into at the lobby of the EDSA Shangrila Plaza Hotel yesterday morning, because it was only then that he made the confirmation.

Peter said ChinoTrinidad will be doing the play-by-play with no less than the man-of-the-hour himself, the newly enshrined national hero Manny Pacquiao!

"Manny will be returning the favor," Peter said. "Brian did it for him with Quinito Henson in the Pacquiao-Morales rematch. Now he will do it for Brian."

* * *

According to Peter, Manny and Brian have become very close friends since their triple triumph (with Boom-Boom Bautista) at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas last September where the "Hawaiian Punch" kayoed Eric Ortiz in the first round to win the WBC light-flyweight title.

"Brian has the greatest respect for Manny," said Peter, whose company Solar Entertainment Corporation, now acts as Viloria's business manager and marketing agent in the Philippines. "He looks up to him as his role model. They often train together in Los Angeles. Brian aspires to achieve what Manny has . He is aware of Manny's stature here and the adoration he enjoys from his countrymen ."

Brian, 24, is being trained by Freddie Roach, managed by Gary Gittelsohn and promoted by Top Rank Organization.

He was a member of the 2000 US Olympic boxing team and has several world championships tucked under his belt: WBC light flyweight, WBC Youth flyweight, WBC Latino flyweight, and North American Boxing Federation flyweight. In 2003 he was named NABF Fighter of the Year.

Brian owns a clean record of 18-0 with 12 knockouts.

* * *

"He wasn't dubbed by his Olympic teammates The Hawaiian Punch for nothing. He earned this moniker because of his extraordinary knockout power in both hands," Peter said.

"And his jump rope skills which has been featured in sports television shows, speaks volumes of his footwork and speed. It has astonished audiences all over America."

Not only Peter but boxing insiders in America are expecting big things for Brian.

"The future looks very bright for him. A showdown with Mexican icon Jorge Arce is looming on the horizon," he said.

* * *

No truth to the report that ABS-CBN has pulled out of the UAAP.

"I don't know how these talks started. We're committed to the partnership," assured Peter Musngi, VP for ABS-CBN Sports.

In the event the UAAP board decides to suspend De La Salle University, which has filed a leave of absence, Peter said they will abide by the board's procedures.

"It's something internal and we will not influence the UAAP one way or another," he said.

* * *

By next week we should know if there will be changes made in the Talk and Text coaching staff and lineup, after the Phone Pals' dismal performance in the ongoing PBA San Mig Fiesta Cup.

"The chemistry is simply lacking," said a Talk and Text official. "We are very, very disappointed."

From what I gathered, management is in the process of very serious assessment------of the players and coaching staff.

Definitely there will be changes, I was told, in both groups.

INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Saturday, February 4, 2006

Sayaw. Drama. Iba
Shall We Dance?
The Celebrity Dance Challenge
Sunday 9 PM
hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez
ABC
Iba Tayo!

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ABC 5		KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho		PBA					Wow Maling Mali		Bind Item		ABCinema					
ABS-CBN 2	ETK				Nginig		Little Big Star		My Juan And Only		Quizon Avenue	Kamao		TV Patrol World		Sabado Movie Greats			
AXN																			
Cartoon Network		Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Xiaolin Showdown	Tom & Jerry Show		Codename Kids Next Door		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teen Titans	Samurai Jack				Dexter's Laboratory	Crash Gear Nitro	The Gransazers	Superman The Animated Series	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Space Ghost Coast to Coast
Cinemax			Truman				Foodie Springs (5:45 PM)				Feeling Minnesota			Sleepers					Pterodactyl (11:25PM)
CNN	Diplomatic License	World News	World Business This Week	World News	International Correspondents	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	Next@CNN	World News	Design 360	World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Disney Channel	Recess	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Buzz on Maggie		Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN												Sportscenter Asia							
ETC		Love Shack		Friends 10	Will & Grace 4	Saturday Night Live		The O.C. 2		Love Shack		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	Miracles Of The Child Jesus	Angelus (3:15PM)	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Knights Of St. Michael	Rosary With Mother Angelica	The Church And The Poor-Building Bridges	Catholic Compass		The World Over Encore		Fr. John Corapi		Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Sacraments Through The Ages	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest VideosKapuso Mo, Jessica Soho		Imbestigador		Hokus Pocus			Showbiz Stripped			
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss? II	Who's The Boss? II	Heart Of A Stranger				I Was A Teenage Faust			My Sister's Keeper				Five Days To Midnight			Five Days To Midnight		
HBO	Gothika (2:45 PM)				Ice Countdown To D-Day			Her Alibi			Starship Troopers 2			Wimbledon			The Craft		
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Nations Peacekeeper	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		TBA				Bitag		Philippine Sabong Sports	Bantay Ozone Layer		
JackTV	X-Men Evolution	Jiu	Batman	X-Play	Cinematech	Bottomline		Raw				Family Guy	Banzai	Mad TV		South Park	South Park	Drawn Together	Crank Yankers
Lifestyle Network	Living Space	HGTV Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America		How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	E! Extra Ultimate H'wood Blonde		Fashion Trance	
MTV Philippines	Hanging Out	MTV Hits	MTV Hits	MTV Presents				Homecoming	Punk'D	Wild N' Out	MTV Cribs	MTV Live		Chart Attack		Brand New	Massive	Jams	Rockola
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5	Radio MYX	Top Of The Pops	Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		The Astounding World		Malaysia Specials	Year Of Hamster	Wild Rio		Creature Feature		Wow!		The Astounding World		Amazon Claws		Big Bite Nite			
NBN				Corporate Billiards League		Concert at the Park		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Talk To Harry		GSIS Member's Hour		Isla Hour On NBN				Auto Focus	
Nickelodeon	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Unfabulous	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh			Danny Phantom	Catscratch	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Dark Oracle	Zoey 101	Unfabulous	Girls In Love	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Four Eyes	The Wild Thornberrys	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			Boy Pita				Matira Matibay				Open Water				Kapantay Ay Langit				Kilabot At Kembot
Qtv		3R	Kiddy Grade	Candies		Fam Jam		Fans Kita		Aylli Robot		Day-Off		Sabado Showdown				Grouper TV	
RPN 9		Open Line	Pagcor Sports Idol	Biyaheng Langit	Kids TV	Barangay Bida		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		Medical Investigations		CSI: Miami		Saturday Night Playhouse				Money Talk	
SBN 21				Friends Again		Sony Bmg Filler		Sony Bmg Filler		JA1		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Kaluwalhatian		Shepherds Voice		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports		MMTLBA Basketball				WWC N Vadcova vs. Zheng Finals			NBA Inside Stuff	GWS 05-2006	NBA Jam	NBA Game: Sonics @ Rockets					Copenhagen Masters Masters Finals Mens Dbls		
Sports Plus		Superbowl Stories 10		PAC 10 Washington @ UCLA				World Poker Tour 2				Ultimate Fighting Championship				Buick Invitational Highlights		FBR Open Day2	
Star Movies			Raging Bull (3:35PM)				Confessions Of A Teenage Drama Queen				Twisted (7:20 PM)			Enemy Of The State		I, Robot (11:10PM)			
Star World		The Collector (Series 3)		Miami Vice		Wild Card		John Doe		The Chronicle: News From The Edge		TNA Xplosion		Ghost Hunters (Series 2)		Enterprise		The Kumars At No. 42	Less Than Perfect
Studio 23								Sports TV	Mr Bean	Pinoy Big Brother		Gilmore Girls (7:50PM)	Jack & Bobby (8:40 PM)		Studio 23 Present				

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Korean bet builds 10-pt lead with 66

Roberto far 2nd in Southern Ladies

BUKIDNON—KOREAN TEENER CRYSTAL Shin of Korea fired a 6-under-par 66 for 60 points under the Molave system of scoring yesterday to take a 10-point lead over Lora Roberto going into the final 18 holes of the 43rd Southern Ladies Open at the Del Monte Golf Club in Manolo Fortich here.

The 14-year-old Shin exploited her power off the tees, reaching three par-5 holes in two for tap-in birdies on the way to an error-free 34-32 round. Together with opening round 58 points, she had a 118 total.

That was 10 points up on Roberto, who shared the lead with Shin Thursday but faltered with a bogey-riddled frontside. The 2004 champion limped home with 50 points, or 76 in medal play, for a 108 total in the event sponsored by Petron Corp., DHL Worldwide Express/WWW Express, Gopez Corp. and Hans Bruhmann Int'l. Jeweller.

Meanwhile, the National Golf Association of the Philippines, bannered by Lina de Guzman, Aileen Rose Yao, Crystal Superal and Mia Piccio, ruled the team division with 238 aggregate, beating the Riviera team of Cyna Rodriguez, Beth Menchavez, Gilda Medestomas and Bernadette Jalosjos by two. Riviera had a 236.

Del Monte-Piña Colada, composed of Lovelyn Guioguio, Eva Miñoza, Kristine Leonen and Shin came in third with 230, while Southwoods, led by Anya Tanpinco, Carmelette Villaroman, Claudine Garcia and Roberto, had 228.

Joyce Duque and Maria Brumann scored 84 and 70, respectively, to complete a 1-2 finish for Alabang in the senior division of the annual event backed by the Philippine Sports Commission, DPC Yellow Pages, U-Bix and Rep. Constantino Jaraula of Cagayan de Oro.

Yao carded 52 points for a 107 total, the same output of the other Korean bet, Sung Hyun Park. De Guzman and Miñoza shared fifth place with 106s.

Claudine Garcia continued to pace Class A with 89 points after a 43 but found a rival in Medestomas, who rallied with 47 points for 88. Celine Meñes surged ahead in Class B with 67 points after a 37, while Duque shot 36 points to show the way in Class C with 70. Milou Tan took the Class D lead with 49 points after a 26.

Two former champs want Pacman in May

By Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

TWO FORMER WORLD CHAMPIONS HAVE been floated as possible opponents for superstar Manny Pacquiao in May.

International boxing agent Rafael Mendoza, according to Box Latino website, has announced that HBO is contemplating on Oscar "Chololo" Larios or Javier Jauregui to face Pacquiao in May here.

Although the final decision has yet to be made, Mendoza said that Jauregui would be in a better position to snag a fight with Pacquiao, considering that he is a legitimate super-featherweight compared to the smaller Larios.

Jauregui, who holds a 51-win, 12-loss, 2-draw record with 35 KOs, took a controversial majority decision win over Filipino Randy Suico last September and previously held the IBF lightweight title.

Larios (56-4-1 with 36 knockouts) is the former WBC superbantam king who won the title from Israel Vazquez, but yielded it back to Vazquez in their grudge rematch last December.

Reports coming out of Team Pacquiao indicate that the national icon plans to promote his own fight in May, as well as the September rubber-match planned against Erik "El Terrible" Morales.

Should Pacquiao start promoting his own bouts, he would join the likes of Oscar De la Hoya, Roy Jones Jr. and Bernard Hopkins who promote their own fights based on the merits of their crossover appeal.

Should a May fight happen here, Pacquiao has reportedly been assured of the financial backing by corporate giant San Miguel Corp., whose products Pacquiao will be endorsing.

San Miguel, through its chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, dangled a hefty package for Pacquiao, including a virtual 'golden parachute' that would take care of the boxing hero long after his retirement from boxing.

PACQUIAO'S hefty package from SMC assures him of a bright future. REUTERS

"The deal includes a P2.5 million annual package for Pacquiao for the next ten years after he retires from boxing," Rex "Wakee" Salud, Pacquiao's close friend, told this writer.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao decided to scrap his scheduled trip to Japan today.

Pacquiao was supposed to fly to Nagoya, but a source indicated the boxing idol "was overfatigued" following his visit to Cebu City, where he paid a courtesy call on Mayor Tomas Osmeña and gave in to fans' requests for photo-ops and autographs.

Pacquiao wanted to cheer for Filipino OPBF champs Randy Suico and Malcolm Tunacao, who are staking their titles tomorrow.

RP basketball oddity: Rival nat'l schools' tourneys set

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN PHILIPPINE BASketball history, there will be two national championships this year, both scheduled so that one tournament ends on the day the other begins.

The Philippine Basketball Federation Inc. has set its National Schools Basketball Championships on Feb. 18-24 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium and the Rizal Coliseum.

Meanwhile, the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) has set its own tournament from Feb. 24 to March 4 in Bacolod City.

Both boast of having the country's top college teams competing in their respective tourneys.

PBFI's Rhea Navarro said their qualifying tournaments have been going on since last October and features top collegiate teams such as UAAP champion Far Eastern U and NCAA titlist Letran.

"The UAAP and NCAA are part of the PBFI and they have already gave us their commitment to join the national finals," said Navarro.

Incidentally, this was the same yarn spun by the BAP, which also vowed to push through with its national finals despite its expulsion from the Philippine Olympic Committee.

The BAP said their eliminations are going on at the PMI in Dumaguete City.

There shouldn't be any confusion, as far as the POC is concerned.

POC spokesperson Joey Romasanta said the NSBC is an NSA function where the "POC has nothing to do with." But he maintained that of the two national finals, the one to be staged by the PBFI would be the official tournament since the body is a member of the POC.

La Salle GH, Ateneo seek FBL championship berths today

LA SALLE GREEN HILLS AND ATENEO DE Manila try to forge a title showdown in the mini division when they take on separate opponents today in the Primovit-Futures Basketball League semifinals at the Meralco Gym in Pasig.

La Salle, second placer after the elimination round, tangles with third placer Marist School at 8 a.m., with topnotcher Ateneo battling the fourth-ranked Lourdes School in the next game.

The girls' teams troop to the court next with second placer Assumption College battling third-ranked Community of Learner and St. Scholastica's College, which emerged with a 3-0 record, facing fourth placer De La Salle-Zobel.

In the midgets division, top Group B team San Beda College-Alabang meets Don Bosco Technical Institute, which finished second in Group A, in the first semifinal game. An early meeting between Ateneo and De La Salle-Zobel happens following Ateneo's final elimination game loss to San Beda last week.

The finals in the girls, mini and midgets divisions will be played tomorrow at the same venue.

The grassroots basketball development program with Primovit Vitamin capsules as title sponsor, and Gatorade, Pagcor, Nike, and Smart Communications as major sponsors, will be expanded this year, according to joint organizers AEG Inc. and Britton Distributions.

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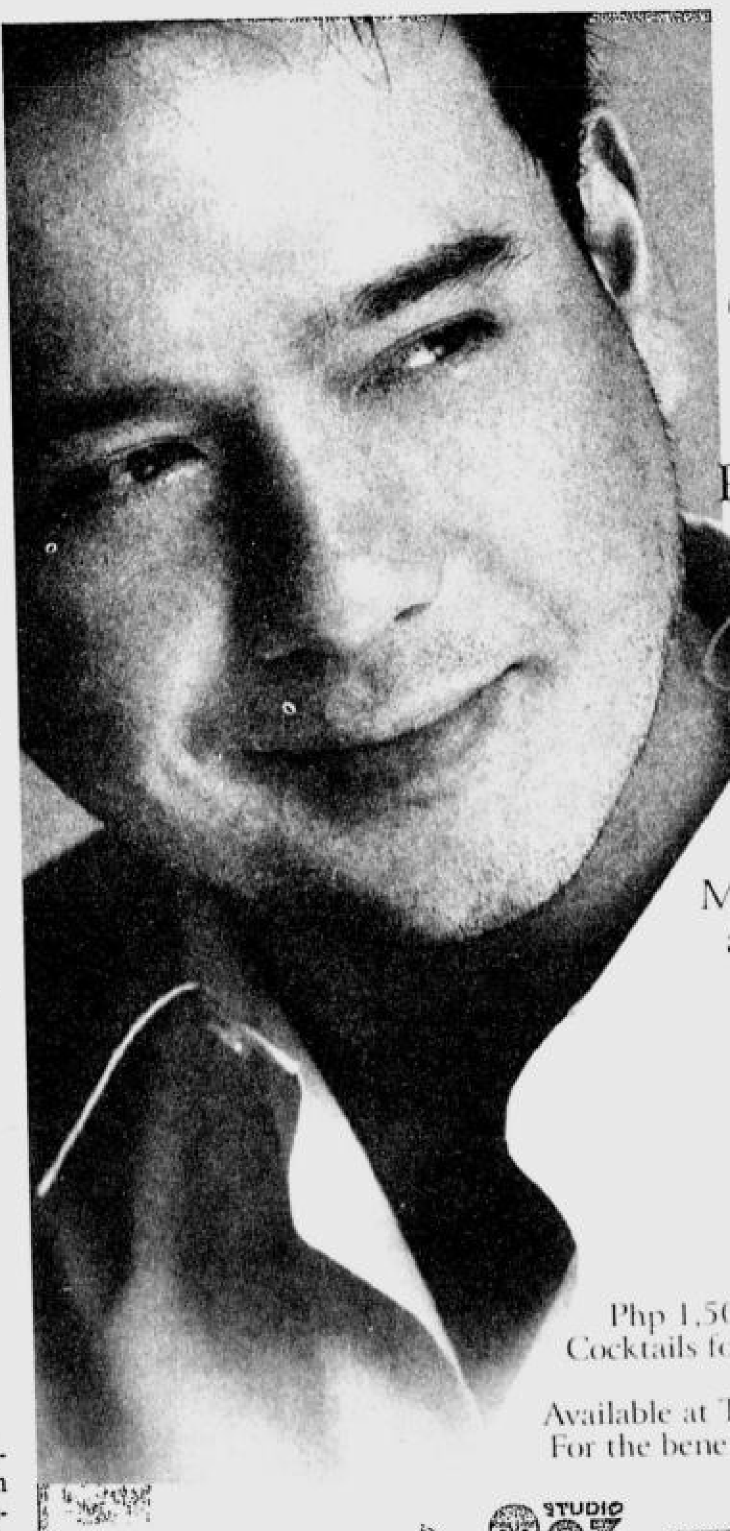

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Heat rout Cavs; Spurs triumph

MIAMI—THE MIAMI Heat notched their fourth straight win on Thursday, crushing the Cleveland Cavaliers, 101-73.

Dwyane Wade had 24 points and Shaquille O'Neal chipped in with 21 as the Heat improved to a season-best 11 games over .500 at 29-18.

The Heat had a pair of impressive runs—22-0 in the first half and 19-1 in the second half—to snap Cleveland's seven-game winning streak. It was the biggest loss for the Cavs this season.

"It looks like we're on our way," O'Neal told reporters after the game.

"We just have to keep it going. We know what it takes for us to play at that level."

Gary Payton added 14 points for Miami, while Antoine Walker had 12 and James Posey chipped in with 11 points and 10 rebounds.

LeBron James had 29 points, seven assists and five rebounds for the Cavaliers, who cut an early 26 point deficit to nine at one point.

"You don't give up," James told reporters.

"It never got to the point where we gave up on ourselves."

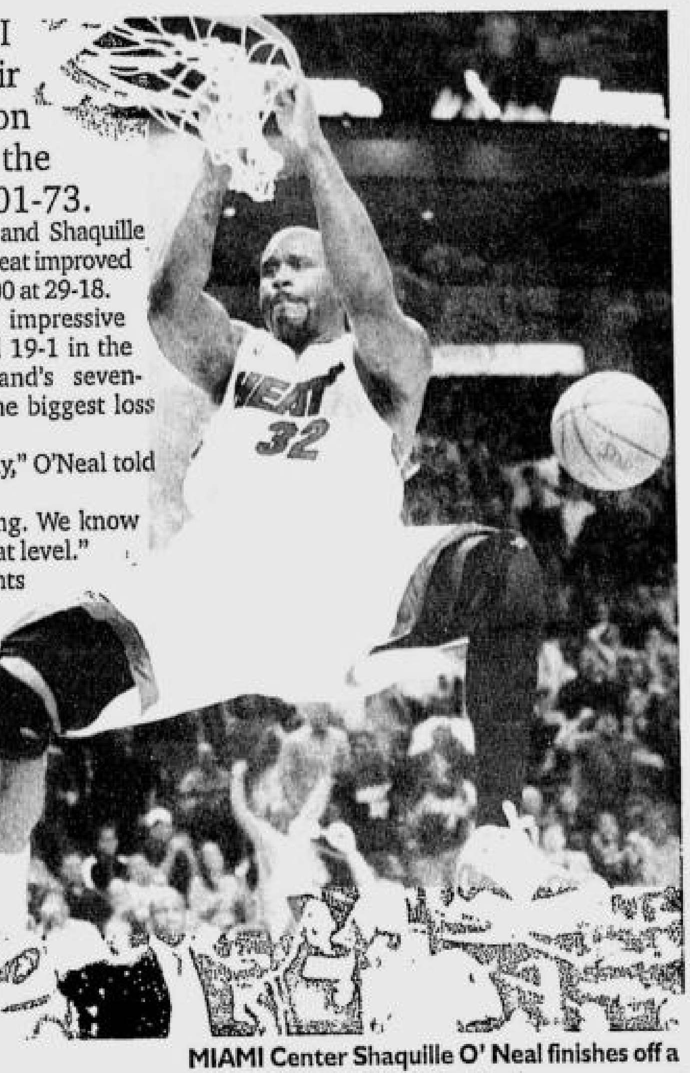
No other Cleveland player managed double-digits in the game, and the Cavs were outrebounded, 53-39.

In the only other NBA game played on Thursday, Tony Parker scored 23 points as the San Antonio Spurs held off the Golden State Warriors, 89-86, in Oakland.

Manu Ginobili had 18 points for the Spurs and Tim Duncan had 16 points and 10 rebounds. San Antonio has won six straight games and 10 of 11.

Troy Murphy led Golden State with 22 points, while Baron Davis had 17 points, eight rebounds and eight assists.

The Warriors have lost 10 of their last 14 home games. *Reuters*



MIAMI Center Shaquille O' Neal finishes off a monster jam against Cleveland. AP

NBA on Solar Sports: 9:30 a.m.—Seattle vs. Houston (replay at 8 p.m.)

Trash-talkin' spices up Super Bowl face-off between Steelers, Seahawks

DETROIT, MICHIGAN—PITTSburgh linebacker Joey Porter peeled off the facade of Super Bowl civility here Thursday, calling out Seattle's Jerramy Stevens and vowing to confront him in Sunday's title game.

One day after criticizing Stevens over comments that the Seahawks would win and deny Pittsburgh rusher Jerome Bettis a celebration in his hometown, Porter escalated the war of words ahead of the National Football League showdown.

"It's better to get it out so you don't have to pretend to like each other," Porter said. "They hate me over there. We don't have to play that game.

"You're not supposed to come into a game like this and pretend to like the other team anyway. We're here for the same trophy. Only one of us can have it. Now I know how they truly feel. If they're looking for a fight I'll be ready."

Porter warned that he will target the tight end should the Seahawks send him in his direction for passes or blocks.

Stevens responded in a low-key manner to Porter's taunts, saying his words were being twisted.

"This is something he likes to do, find something to get him motivated. He found something to get him ready to play," Stevens said. "I'm not scared. Seattle is not scared. We're here to play.

Stevens said taunts will not affect him in the Super Bowl.

Bettis, two weeks shy of his 34th birthday and considering retirement, supported Porter but also said Stevens was not wrong to say, "it will be a sad day when (Bettis) leaves without that trophy."

"They are entitled to what they believe," Bettis said. "Joey spoke out for what he believes in when he was challenged.

"Their job is to make sure there is not a big block party after the game. Our job is to make sure everybody gets a ticket." *AFP*

STEELERS running back Jerome Bettis streches before practice. AP

Sharapova, Hingis set semis duel

TOKYO—TOP-SEEDED MARIA SHARApova defeated Australia's Samantha Stosur, 6-1, 6-4, Friday to set up a semifinals showdown with Martina Hingis at the Pan Pacific Open.

Defending champion Sharapova relied on a strong serve and solid groundstrokes to complete a convincing win over Stosur at Tokyo's Metropolitan Gymnasium.

Former world No. 1 Hingis, who entered the tournament as a wild card, faced little resistance from Maria Kirilenko, downing the Russian, 6-2, 6-1.

"It should be really exciting," said Sharapova of the semifinals matchup. "I've never played her before. Obviously it will be a tough match and I'll have to play well."

Hingis, who retired three years ago because of foot, heal and ankle injuries, is a four-time winner in Tokyo. She last played in the tournament in 2002.

In her comeback campaign, Hingis won her first mixed doubles Grand Slam title at the Australian Open last Sunday after reaching the singles quarterfinals. She now has 15 Grand Slam titles.

She said she was inspired by other veteran players who are performing well.

"Watching players like (Lindsay) Davenport, (Mary) Pierce and (Amelie) Mauresmo compete at the highest level was very inspirational," Hingis said.

Sharapova said she hopes her strong serve will be the difference in Saturday's semifinal.

"It will be very important to serve well and hold serve," said Sharapova, currently fourth in the world rankings.

Hingis said she looked forward to her first match against Sharapova.

"Her biggest strength is she serves well and is mentally tough," said Hingis. "I've always said I wanted to play her and now I'll get my chance." *AP*

UE, Lyceum hurdle rivals

UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST AND LYCEUM University posted easy victories at the start of women's basketball hostilities in the Home and Away Invitational League (Hail) recently.

The UE Lady Warriors trounced the Emilio Aguinaldo College Lady Generals in their first home game, 87-38, while the Lyceum Lady Pirates also won at their own turf, 57-41, at the expense of College of St. Benilde.

Eds Agustin finished with 19 points to lead three other double-digit scorers for UE, which led, 19-7, at the half. Mars Marzan had 12, Jema Burlat added 11 and Lea Lopez 10.

Action resumes today in men's and women's volleyball, with De La Salle University playing at the UE Gym; Lyceum hosting Ateneo and Far Eastern University visiting EAC. The women's side will be played at 2 p.m, while men's competitions start at 4 p.m.

Hail is supported by Adidas, the official outfitter, and Sunbolt, the official sports drink, and organized by Waffle Marketing Inc.

Sos get shot at Mango history

THE FATHER-AND-SON TANDEM OF HANSON So Sr. and Jr. gave themselves a shot at making history in the 22nd Mango Tee Invitational golf tournament by joining a three-way tie for the lead after the completion of the first round action yesterday at the Alabang Country Club course.

The Sos compiled 81 points with 2-handicapper Jr. scoring a 41 and 11-handicapper Sr. compiling 40 to stay on track toward becoming the first father-and-son champion of this annual tournament.

Joining them for the lead were Ruben del Rosario, a 17-handicapper who scored 41, and his 15-handicapper partner Jun Santos, who made 40, and the partnership of Fernando Balatbat-Rey Gamboa.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum and Smart Communications are co-presenting the event.

Mitsubishi and Citimotors Inc. are staking an array of vehicles for hole-in-one prizes while Kart Plaza is putting up a cart for the same feat.

Major sponsors are Pacsports Philippines, Pacific Sports Network/Taylormade Adidas, Landco Pacific Corporation, Golforce Inc., Makati Skyline, Philippine Airlines, Srixon Golf and Sharp Philippines. Chinatrust is premiere area sponsor while Air21/Corporate Air, Nestle Philippines, Pepsi Cola, Security Bank/Diners and Unilab are premium hole sponsors.

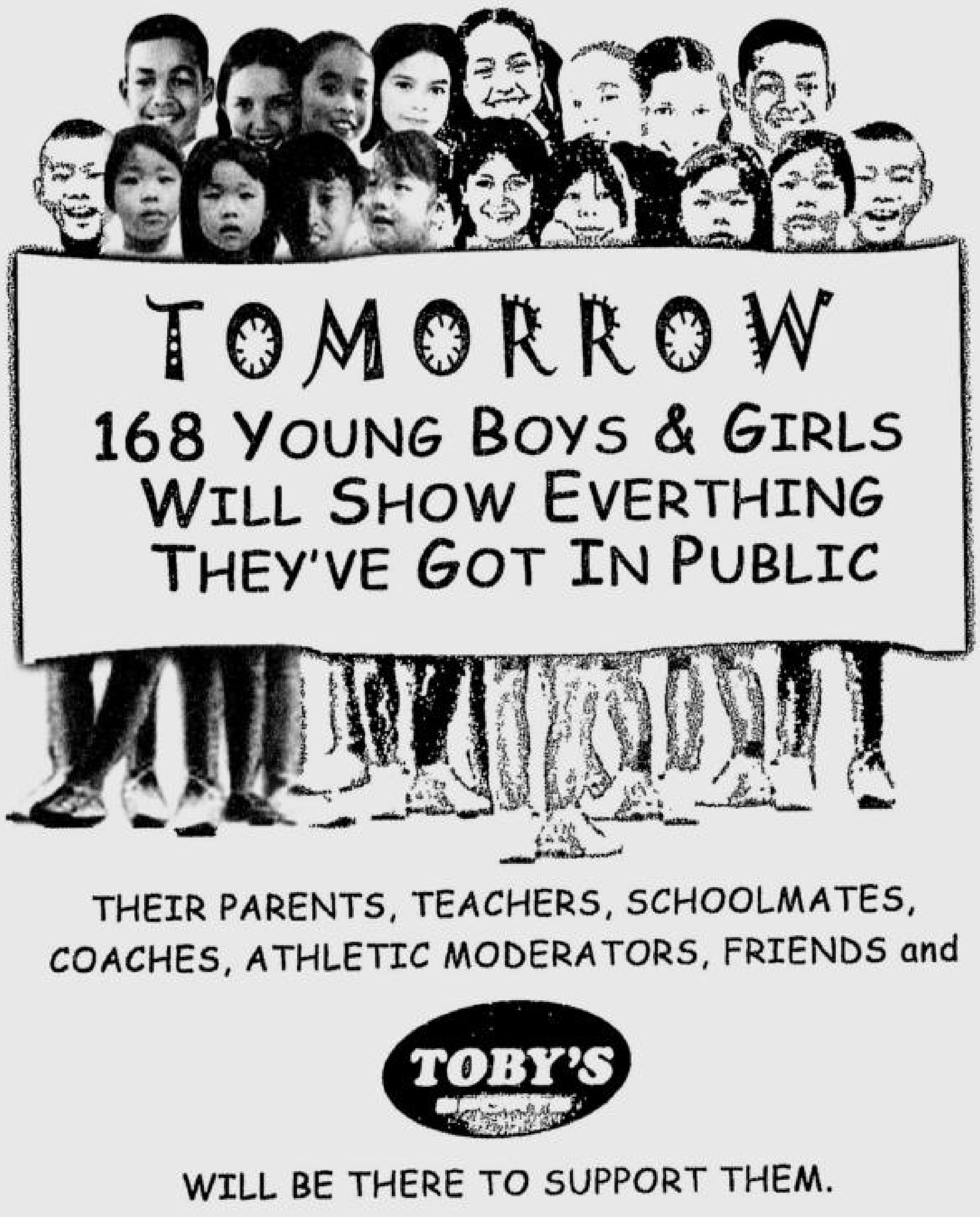
Hole sponsors are Acro Industrial Development Corp., Beacon Environmental Management Services, C-Lium Fibre, Cathay Land, Inc./South Forbes, Fogco Systems Inc. – Arizona USA, GG&A Clubshares Inc., GNC Live Well & OSIM, Golfers Clubshares Inc., Green Cross, Hotel Sogo & Eurotel, Jan Barandiaran/Joseph Rice Center, Kart Plaza/Yamaha Golf Cart, MIS Maritime Corp., M & M Manpower Services, Outback, PNCC Skyway Corp., Prudential Life Plan Group Inc., Safe Seas Shipping Agency Inc., San Miguel Corp., Tanduay Distilleries Inc. and True Value.

Roligon derby round 3 up

ROUND THREE OF THE CROWD-DRAWING "16TH Anniversary 6-Cock Derby" sizzles today at 2 p.m. with more than 100 fights on tap at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. After two days of action, 48 participants qualified for the championship round on Feb. 9 with two wins each. A special prize of P600,000 will be given out to those who will score four wins on Feb. 7. For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1638 or 852-9812.

Pacquiao Big Event Monday

THE MUCH-AWAITED "PACQUIAO BIG EVENT 8-Cock Derby" is all set on Monday and Wednesday at the San Juan Coliseum. More than 70 fights are scheduled in Monday's 4-cock elimination round. The finals of the event co-sponsored by boxing hero Manny Pacquiao, the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines and Sagupaan Complexor 3000 is on Wednesday. For inquiries, call Ariel at 0917-8041691



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Ford Focus 1.6L Trend is latest variant to complete line-up

MANILA- Just when you thought you've seen Ford's top of the line Ford Focus, another one comes along to start 2006 with a big bang. One look at its smooth body exterior, solid, yet elegant stance and athletic lines will make anyone-car enthusiast or plain motorist-fall in love with the Ford Focus 1.6L Trend A/T or M/T.

This award-winning car on both sides of the Atlantic boasts of three brand pillars that make the Ford Focus truly a class on its own-German Engineering, European Styling and Superior Driving Dynamics.

Precision engineering is a key element in the design of the Ford Focus-giving those behind the wheel ultimate control over any driving condition, as the rest of the car's occupants are lulled into an oasis of quiet comfort and safety while onboard the vehicle. The Ford Focus is designed with an optimized A-pillar shape, a steel door module, thick front and side window glass, and two closed loop door seals to effectively reduce Noise, Vibration and Harshness levels.

The Ford Focus also features the state-of-the-art Duratec HE petrol engine, designed for smooth and optimum power delivery on high economy, providing high torque levels at low speeds. Drivers are assured of efficiency, fun-to-drive features, and extremely long service life.

European styling via a superb design and sophisticated finish finds its way into the Ford Focus and its plush interiors, where passengers are literally covered by a "cockpit feel," to the vehicle. Unrivalled luxury and convenience are on top of the list, aside from the Ford Focus giving owners bragging rights on the road.

Forget about uncomfortable long drives as well in Manila's traffic and congested streets - the Ford Focus 1.6L Trend lets you sit back and relax on both short and long trips, with its wider and longer interiors, that provide more room for legs, shoulders, and even your luggage.

Completing the exquisite driving experience offered by Ford Focus 1.6L Trend A/T or M/T is its superb driving dynamics. Since it is a light vehicle, it provides better suspension, a key to dynamic road performance and exceptional driving enjoyment.

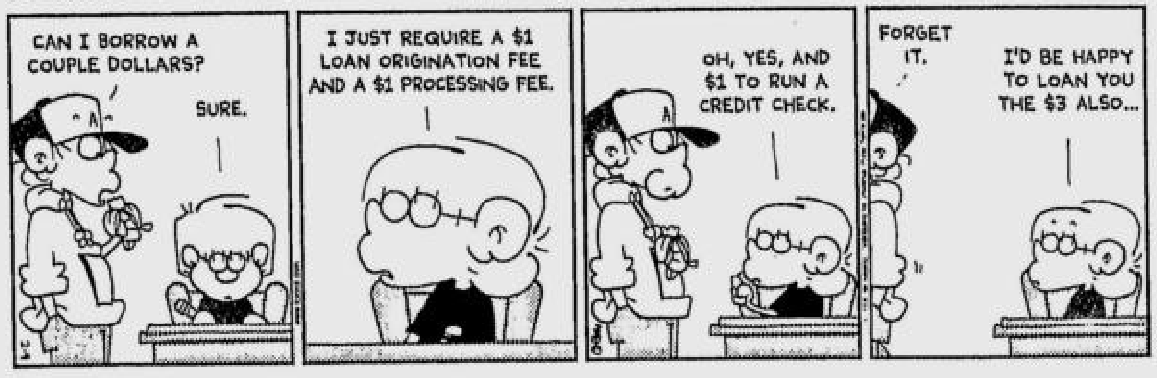
The Ford Focus and its chassis boasts of outstanding features including new MacPherson struts, larger front dampers, gas-filled twin-tube struts and rebound springs, all contributing to increased vehicle stability, high levels of steering precision and good impact absorption. The driving then becomes an all-new experience in itself onboard this luxury, albeit hardworking, sedan.

Accolades reaped on the Ford Focus due to its winning attributes have secured its position as a top auto favorite across countries. It is the first and only car to secure the much-coveted Car of the Year in both Europe and North America, receiving over 80 international awards to date. This feat is unmatched by any other car manufacturer, as the Ford Focus is a certified bestseller with nearly five million sold in North America and Europe. Hopefully, the trend continues in Asia.

Experience the Ford Focus 1.6L A/T or M/T via the Road and Rally Experience Public Test Drive on February 4 and 5, from 9:00am to 5:00 pm at The Fort in Taguig City. Or visit any of the Ford dealerships nationwide. In Metro Manila, Ford can be found in Alabang, Balintawak, Commonwealth, Edsa, Libis, Makati, Manila, Quezon Avenue and Shaw Blvd. In the provinces, Ford dealerships are in Bacolod, Cabanatuan, Cagayan de Oro, Cavite, Cebu, Dagupan, Davao, Iloilo, Pampanga and San Pablo.

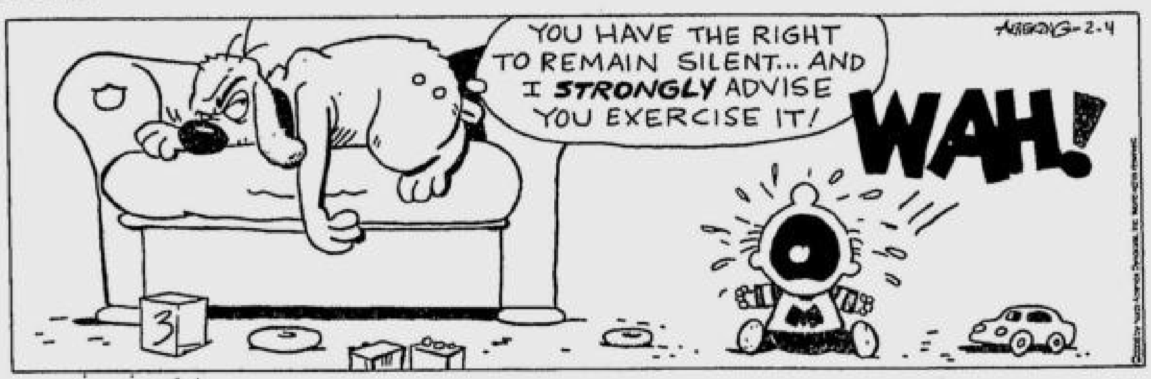
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


CAN I BORROW A COUPLE DOLLARS?
SURE.
I JUST REQUIRE A $1 LOAN ORIGINATION FEE AND A $1 PROCESSING FEE.
OH, YES, AND $1 TO RUN A CREDIT CHECK.
FORGET IT.
I'D BE HAPPY TO LOAN YOU THE $3 ALSO...

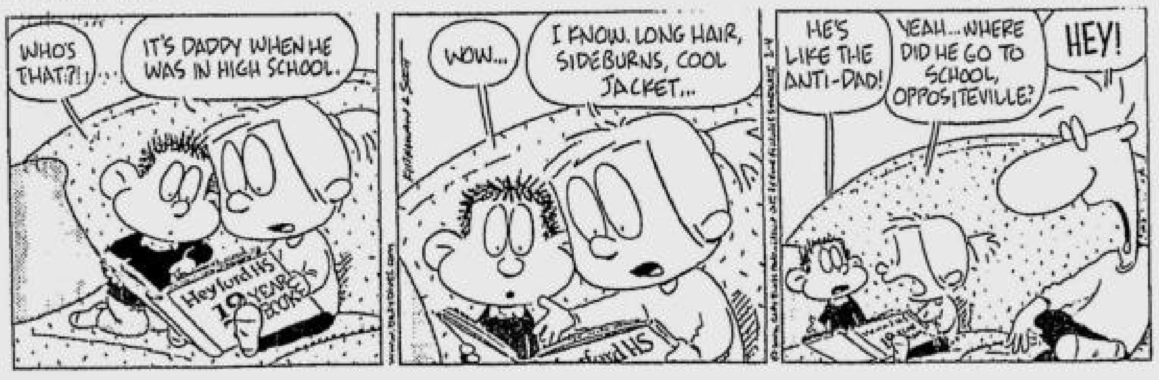
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT... AND I STRONGLY ADVISE YOU EXERCISE IT!
WAH!

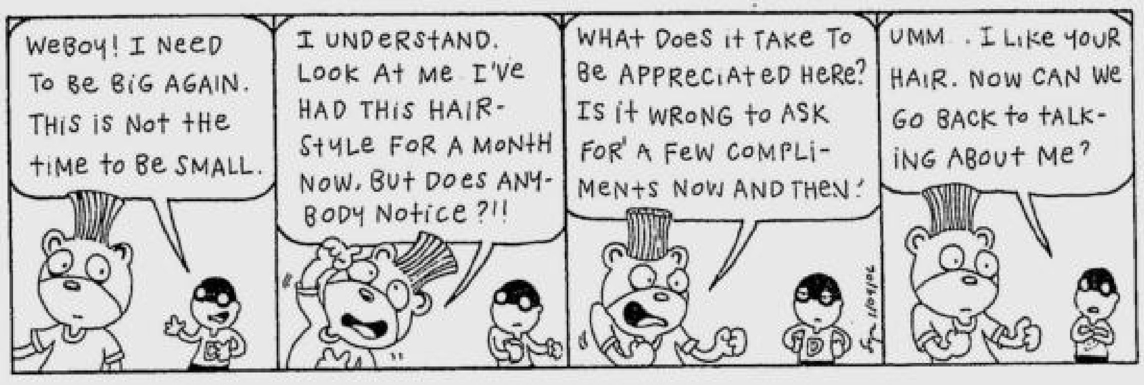
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHO'S THAT?!
IT'S DADDY WHEN HE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL.
WOW...
I KNOW. LONG HAIR, SIDEBURNS, COOL JACKET...
HE'S LIKE THE ANTI-DAD!
YEAH... WHERE DID HE GO TO SCHOOL, OPPOSITEVILLE?
HEY!

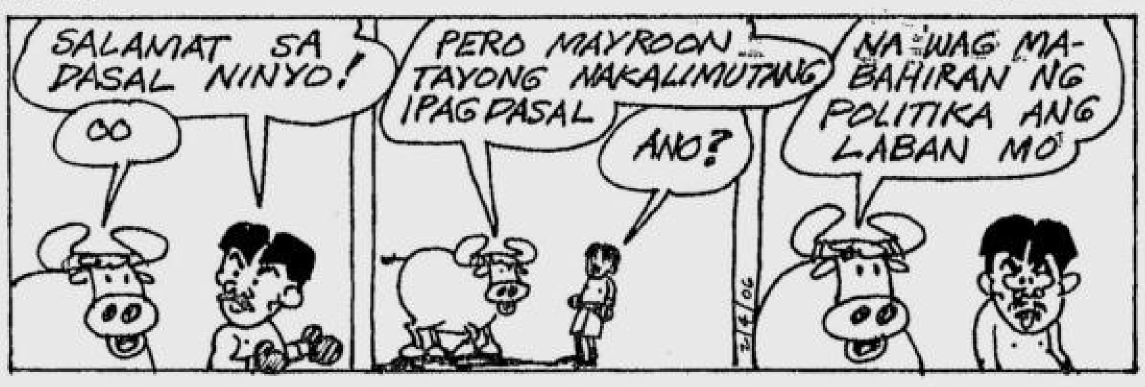
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WeBoy! I Need To Be BiG AGAIN. THiS is Not the time to Be SMALL.
I UNDERSTAND. Look At Me. I've HAD THiS HAiR-StyLE FOR A MONtH NOW. But Does ANY-BODY Notice?!!
WHAt Does it TAKE To Be APPRECiAtED HERE? Is it WRONG to ASK FOR A FEW COMPLi-MENtS NOW AND THEN?
UMM. I LiKE YOUR HAIR. NOW CAN WE GO BACK to TALK-iNG About Me?

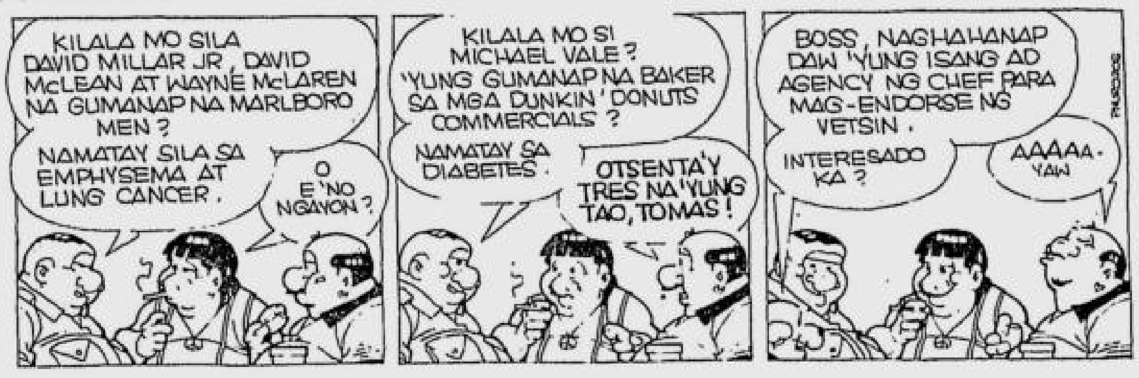
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SALAMAT SA DASAL NINYO!
OO
PERO MAYROON... TAYONG NAKALIMUTANG IPAG DASAL
ANO?
NA WAG MA-BAHIRAN NG POLITIKA ANG LABAN MO

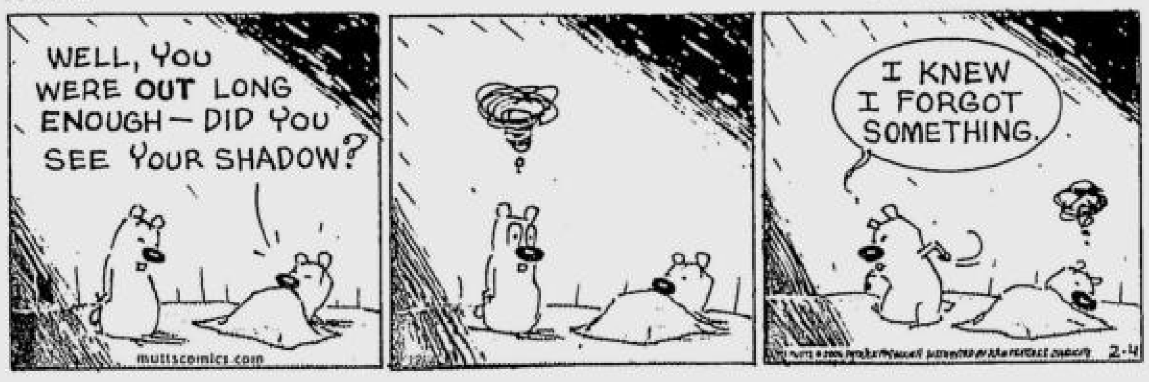
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KILALA MO SILA DAVID MILLAR JR, DAVID McLEAN AT WAYNE McLAREN NA GUMANAP NA MARLBORO MEN?
NAMATAY SILA SA EMPHYSEMA AT LUNG CANCER.
O E 'NO NGAYON?
KILALA MO SI MICHAEL VALE? 'YUNG GUMANAP NA BAKER SA MGA DUNKIN' DONUTS COMMERCIALS?
NAMATAY SA DIABETES.
OTSENTA'Y TRES NA 'YUNG TAO, TOMAS!
BOSS, NAGHAHANAP DAW 'YUNG ISANG AD AGENCY NG CHEF PARA MAG-ENDORSE NG VETSIN.
INTERESADO KA?
AAAAA-YAW

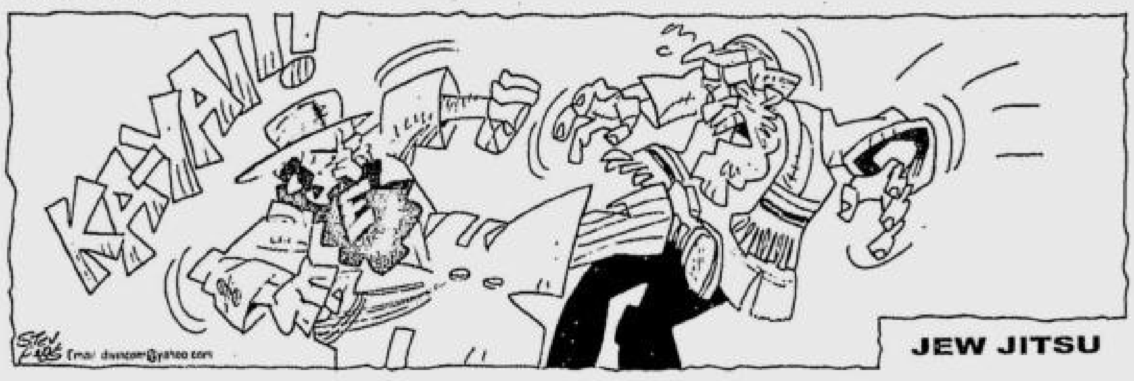
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WELL, YOU WERE OUT LONG ENOUGH — DID YOU SEE YOUR SHADOW?
I KNEW I FORGOT SOMETHING.
muttscomics.com

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a fascinating personality. You're always entertaining, and you're always unconventional. You're not afraid to break the rules. You have your own way of doing things, but you get them done. People respect you because you're sincere. This year could bring a major change to your life, perhaps as significant as whatever occurred in 1997.

Birthdate of: Rosa Parks, activist; Clint Black, country singer; Chogyam Trungpa, Tibetan Buddhist teacher.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You can trust your intuition about financial matters today. Unusual, bright ideas occur to you out of the blue. Spontaneous purchases will please you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You feel very energetic today! However, your mood will change in a subtle way. Surprising conversations with groups or a friend will be fascinating!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your intuition is strong today. You feel unusually independent and self-reliant. You have the sudden realization that you can do something you thought would be difficult. (Attitude is a powerful thing.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): A conversation with a friend definitely takes an interesting turn today. You might learn something rather startling. Most likely, you'll see that you really didn't know this person.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel ambitious and energetic today. In fact, people who know you notice your excitement. Surprising news from a boss or parent encourages you. You see new opportunities to promote your relations with this person.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Take advantage of any unexpected chances to get training or education that suddenly come your way today. If you can learn something new, do it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Surprise gifts and goodies could come to you today. Be open to what the universe can give you. Don't be skeptical or hesitant. If someone offers something to you, accept it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might make a new friend today. People are a source of surprise for you. Conversations with others make you feel young and in the swing of things! (It's exciting.)

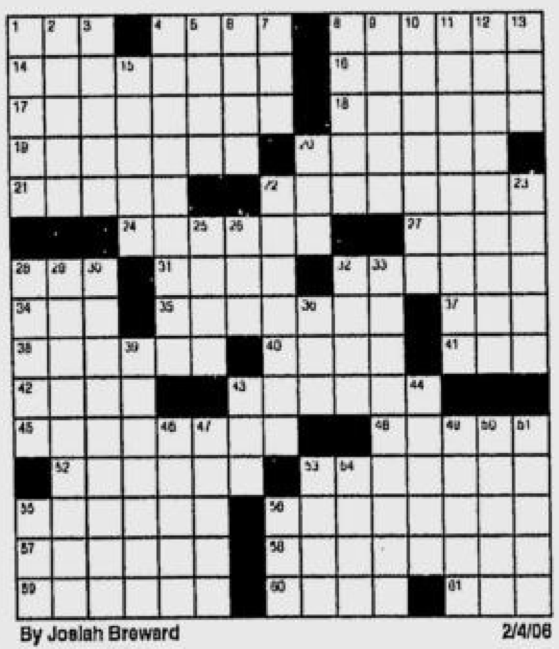
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): New technology might help you to improve your job today. You see fresh ways of doing things. Be open to information about alternative health methods as well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Surprise flirtations will catch you off-guard today. Some of you could meet a new love. Parents should be vigilant with children. Playful activities can be fun, but there's a chance for minor accidents.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Surprise guests dropping by or something unexpected within your family could occur today. Your home routine will definitely be interrupted. (Small appliances might break down.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're full of inventive, original ideas today. Your imagination is in overdrive! Unexpected conversations with neighbors and siblings will please you. (You'll probably learn something surprising.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA
2/4/06

ACROSS
1 Resistance unit
4 Stripped down
8 Moved to a slanting position
14 Christie culprit, perhaps
16 Surfing the net
17 Constrictor snake
18 Subtle shade of meaning
19 Additional shootings
20 __ the thought!
21 Mine cars
22 Cardinals' caps
24 WWII prison camp
27 Author Ambler
28 Clumsy one
31 Corrida calls
32 Long-time Dolphin
34 Wildebeest
35 Drum beat
37 School favorite
38 Defeats
40 Clumsy fellow
41 Asner and Wynn
42 Send out
43 Long scarves
45 Wages
48 Audible kiss
52 Lady of "The Raven"
53 Usable as proof
55 Danny of "Radio Days"
56 Casanova's son?
57 "Pippin" dancer
58 Implication
59 Take stock of
60 Hardy girl
61 Turner or Knight

DOWN
1 Pictures of illusion
2 Sharpener
3 Mazda model
4 Readers' mecca
5 Meara or Archer
6 Cincinnati team
7 Notable time
8 Skin cream
9 Habituate
10 One who braids
11 Thin line motif
12 Put in fetters
13 Actress Sandra
15 Con-man's tricks
20 Sty occupant
22 Glassy volcanic rocks
23 Glaswegians
25 Melodramatic lament
26 Countenance
28 Eyes lasciviously
29 Peculiar deviations
30 Old-time British soldiers
32 Handle roughly
33 Certifiers
36 Also
39 Marvel Comics man
43 Observe
44 Chic
46 Romeo and Juliet, for example
47 Kin of Tiger's woods
49 Head monk
50 Genetic duplicate
51 Attuned
53 Small bay
54 Currier's partner
55 Gardner of "The Barefoot Contessa"
56 Man with a salty wife?

Friday's Puzzle Solved

A	T	O	M	■	A	B	B	Y	■	E	L	I	T	E
B	A	L	I	■	C	R	E	E	■	X	E	N	O	N
E	X	A	M	■	T	O	L	L	■	C	O	N	G	O
L	I	F	E	O	F	W	I	L	E	E	■	S	O	S
■	■	■	O	Z	O	N	E	■	W	E	E	■	■	■
P	O	S	■	A	R	B	■	■	I	D	L	E	S	T
A	S	T	E	R	■	E	D	E	N	■	E	R	I	E
W	H	I	S	K	M	A	N	A	G	E	M	E	N	T
L	E	N	T	■	E	R	A	T	■	N	I	C	E	R
S	A	T	E	E	N	■	■	A	L	D	■	T	W	A
■	■	■	E	D	S	■	S	P	I	E	S	■	■	■
I	S	M	■	W	H	I	T	E	O	R	W	O	N	G
S	C	U	B	A	■	B	R	A	N	■	A	V	E	R
L	A	T	E	R	■	M	I	C	E	■	L	I	R	E
E	M	E	N	D	■	S	A	H	L	■	E	D	D	Y

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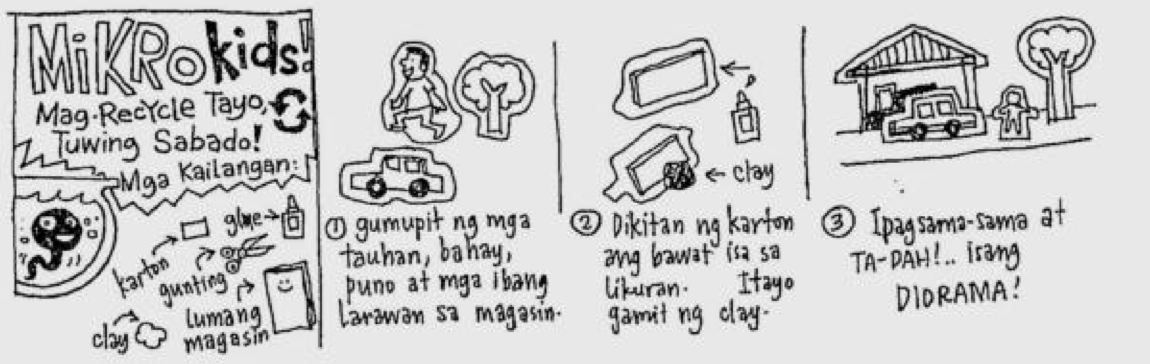
2/4/06

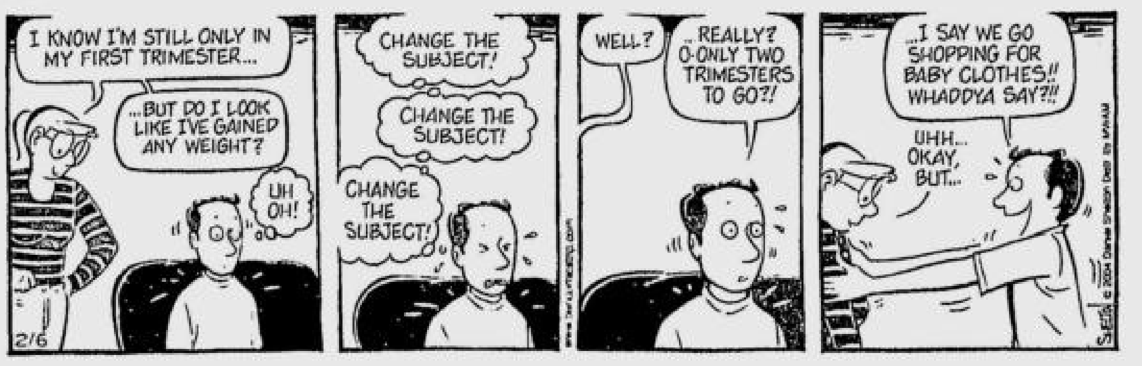
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRoKids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan:
karton
glue
gunting
clay
lumang magasin
① gumupit ng mga tauhan, bahay, puno at mga ibang larawan sa magasin.
clay
② Dikitan ng karton ang bawat isa sa likuran. Itayo gamit ng clay.
③ Ipagsama-sama at TA-DAH!.. isang DIORAMA!

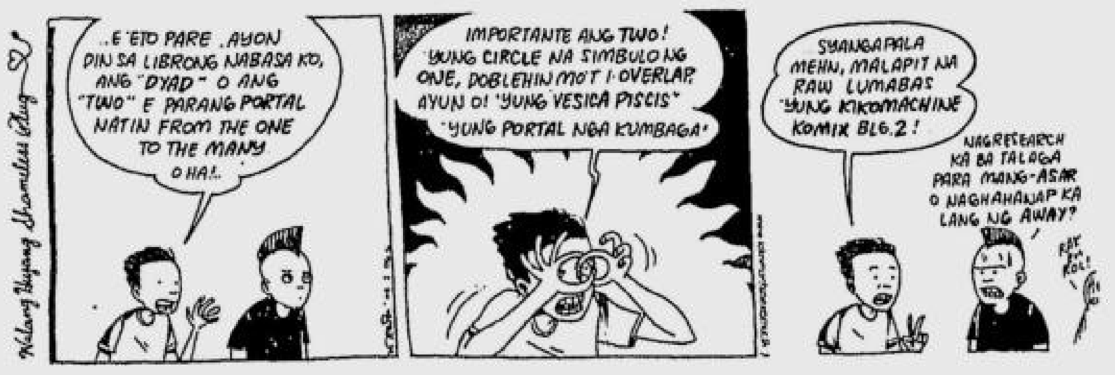
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I KNOW I'M STILL ONLY IN MY FIRST TRIMESTER...
...BUT DO I LOOK LIKE I'VE GAINED ANY WEIGHT?
UH OH!
CHANGE THE SUBJECT!
CHANGE THE SUBJECT!
CHANGE THE SUBJECT!
WELL?
...REALLY? O-ONLY TWO TRIMESTERS TO GO?!
...I SAY WE GO SHOPPING FOR BABY CLOTHES!! WHADDYA SAY?!!
UHH... OKAY, BUT...
2/6

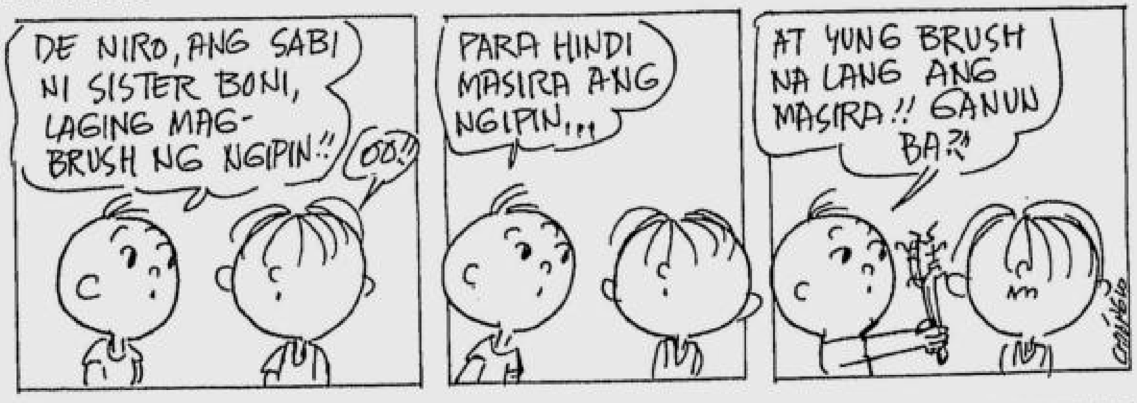
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


Walang Hiyang Shameless Atay
..E 'ETO PARE. AYON DIN SA LIBRONG NABASA KO, ANG "DYAD" O ANG "TWO" E PARANG PORTAL NATIN FROM THE ONE TO THE MANY O HA!.
IMPORTANTE ANG TWO! 'YUNG CIRCLE NA SIMBULO NG ONE, DOBLEHIN MO'T I-OVERLAP AYUN O! 'YUNG VESICA PISCIS' 'YUNG PORTAL NGA KUMBAGA'
SYANGAPALA MEHN, MALAPIT NA RAW LUMABAS 'YUNG KIKOMACHINE KOMIX BLG.2!
NAGRESEARCH KA BA TALAGA PARA MANG-ASAR O NAGHAHANAP KA LANG NG AWAY?

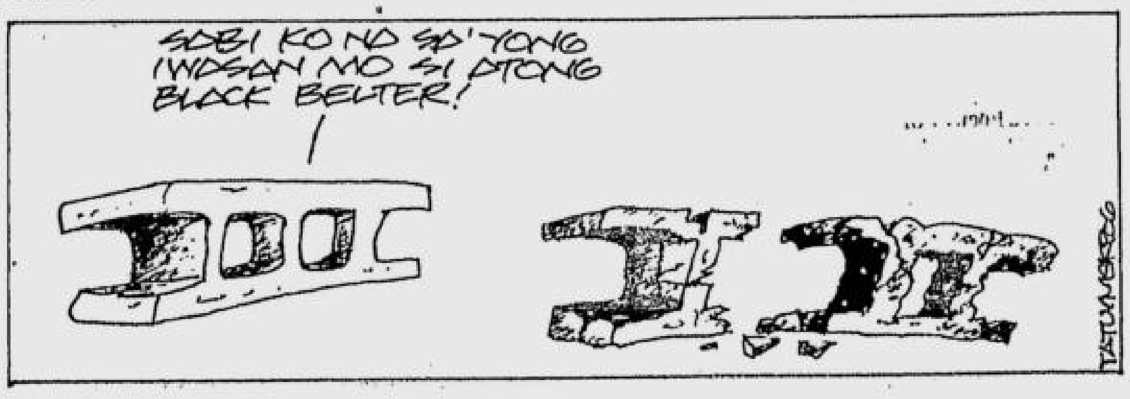
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, ANG SABI NI SISTER BONI, LAGING MAG-BRUSH NG NGIPIN!!
OO!!
PARA HINDI MASIRA ANG NGIPIN...
AT YUNG BRUSH NA LANG ANG MASIRA!! GANUN BA?!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SABI KO NA SA'YONG IWASAN MO SI ATONG BLACK BELTER!

ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC.

Your Best Source of Quality Machines in Asia

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Trucks & Equipment

4-DAY PUBLIC AUCTION

FEB. 22, 23, 24 & 25, 2006

(Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday)
Sale Starts at 8:00 a.m.

DON'T MISS THE BIGGEST AUCTION OF THE YEAR!

OVER 2,000 ITEMS TO BE SOLD

Inspection Dates:
Feb. 18, 19, 20 & 21
(Saturday, Sunday, Monday & Tuesday)

We are awarded as the Philippines' No. 1 USED TRUCK DEALER

UPGRADED QUALITY UNITS & LATE MODEL TRUCKS!

94 - CARGO TRUCKS

ISUZU GIGA CARGO

60 - WING VANS

2-ISUZU GIGA WING VANS

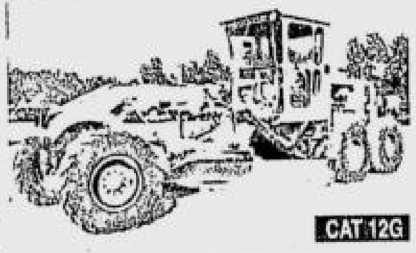
72 - TRACTOR HEADS

2-ISUZU GIGA TRACTOR HEADS

41 - WHEEL LOADERS

1996 CAT 950F2

25 - MOTOR GRADERS



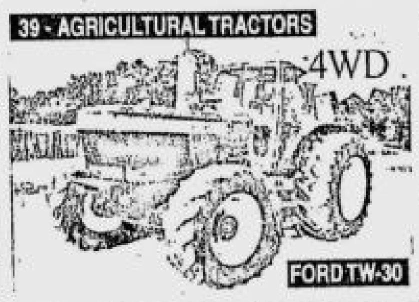
CAT 12G

30 - ROAD ROLLERS

DYNAPAC CC50 ARTICULATED WIB. ROLLER

ISUZU BIGHORN 3.1L

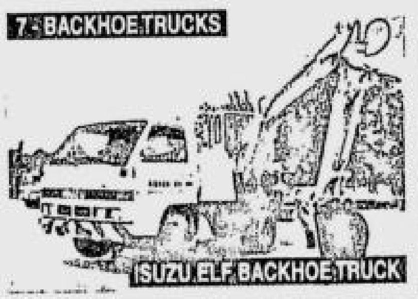
39 - AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS



4WD

FORD TW-30

7 - BACKHOE TRUCKS



ISUZU ELF BACKHOE TRUCK

Inquire & Register Online via: http://www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com

AUCTION STYLE : PARADE

SENATE

Pasay City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all G-EPS registered bidders/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid on four (4) projects for the printing and binding of *"Record of the Senate"* and *"Journal of the Senate"*:

DESCRIPTION	QTY.	PROJECT ALLOCATION	NON-REFUNDABLE FEE/PROJECT
PROJECT – A (RECORD OF THE SENATE):			
1. Vol. III, 1st Regular Session, 12th Congress (746 pp.)	200 pcs.		
2. Vol. IV, 1st Regular Session, 12th Congress (725 pp.)	200 pcs.		
3. Vol. I, 1st Regular Session, 12th Congress (930 pp.)	200 pcs.		
4. Vol. II, 2nd Regular Session, 12th Congress (905 pp.)	200 pcs.		
5. Vol. III, 2nd Regular Session, 12th Congress (1,500 pp.)	200 pcs.	Php 2,019,520.00	Php 200.00
PROJECT – B (JOURNAL OF THE SENATE):			
1. Vol. I, 2nd Regular Session, 11th Congress (1,007 pp.)	200 pcs.		
2. Vol. II, 2nd Regular Session, 11th Congress (805 pp.)	200 pcs.		
3. Vol. I, 1st Regular Session, 12th Congress (978 pp.)	200 pcs.		
4. Vol. II, 1st Regular Session, 12th Congress (668 pp.)	200 pcs.		
5. Vol. III, 1st Regular Session, 12th Congress (414 pp.)	200 pcs.	Php 1,626,240.00	Php 200.00
PROJECT – C (JOURNAL OF THE SENATE):			
1 Vol. I, 2nd Regular Session, 12th Congress (714 pp.)	200 pcs.		
2. Vol. II, 2nd Regular Session, 12th Congress (1,272 pp.)	200 pcs.		
3 Vol. I, 3rd Regular Session, 12th Congress (1,000 pp.)	200 pcs.		
4. Vol. II, 3rd Regular Session, 12th Congress (593 pp.)	200 pcs.	Php 1,503,180.00	Php 200.00
PROJECT – D (JOURNAL OF THE SENATE):			
1 Vol. I, 1st Regular Session, 13th congress (886 pp.)	200 pcs.		
2. Vol. II, 1st Regular Session, 13th Congress (754 pp.)	200 pcs.		
3. Vol. III, 1st Regular Session, 13th Congress (613 pp.)	200 pcs.	Php 946,260.00	Php 200.00

The specifications shall be available to interested bidders/suppliers at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm 401, 4/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City from **1:30 PM to 6:00 PM, February 13-16, 2006** upon payment of non-refundable fee/s as indicated above. There will be one (1) winning bidder for every project. All books in all projects must be delivered on or before April 30, 2006. Liquidated damages of Php 1,000.00 or 1/10 of one percent (1%) of the unperformed portion, whichever is higher, for each day of delay, shall be imposed on the printer for failure to deliver on said deadline. **The pre-bidding conference shall be held on February 21, 2006, 10:00 AM** at the Office of the Deputy Secretary for Administrative and Financial Services, Rm. 408, 4th Floor, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Pasay City.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. **LATE BIDS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

This invitation is also advertised with the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) at www.procurementservice.org. and posted at the 4th Floor Senate bulletin board.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat Office at telefax no. 552-6601 local 1602 (c/o Rose de Castro).

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVIEW ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE AWARD.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Feb. 4 & 8, 2006)

PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY

7th & 8th FLOORS, LEGASPI TOWERS 200 BLDG., cor. PASEO DE ROXAS ST
LEGASPI VILLAGE, 1226 CITY OF MAKATI
TELEPHONE NUMBERS (02) 817-47-11 to 13, (02) 813-1441 to 45
FAX (632) 815-2062
WEBSITE www.pea.gov.ph EMAIL info@pea.gov.ph

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

1. The **PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY** (formerly Public Estates Authority) is inviting all interested parties to prequalify and bid for the lease of twelve (12) pre-selected sites for outdoor billboard advertising along the landstrip of Coastal Road from Barangay Tambo, Parañaque to Barangay Ilaya, Las Piñas City.
2. Qualified Bidders
    a. Any Filipino citizen, of legal age, and
    b. Any partnership, association or corporation, public or private of which at least 70% of the capital stock or of any interest in said capital stock belongs wholly to citizens of the Philippines and which is organized and constituted under the laws of the Philippines.
3. Interested qualified parties may obtain the Terms of Reference and Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00) in cash or Manager's/Cashier's check starting February 08, 2006 until February 24, 2006 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Marketing Department, 7th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
4. The first pre-bid conference is scheduled on February 15, 2006 at 2:00 PM at the PRA Conference Room, 8th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
5. Required pre-qualification documents and duly accomplished Bid Documents prescribed in the Terms of Reference shall be submitted to the PRA Real Estates Bids and Awards Committee (PREBAC) on March 01, 2006 on or before 1:00 PM. Public opening of bids shall follow at 1:30 PM of the same day.
6. For further information, inquiries may be made to the Marketing Department in the above address at telephone numbers 817-4711 to 13 (trunk line) and 813-7104 (direct line).

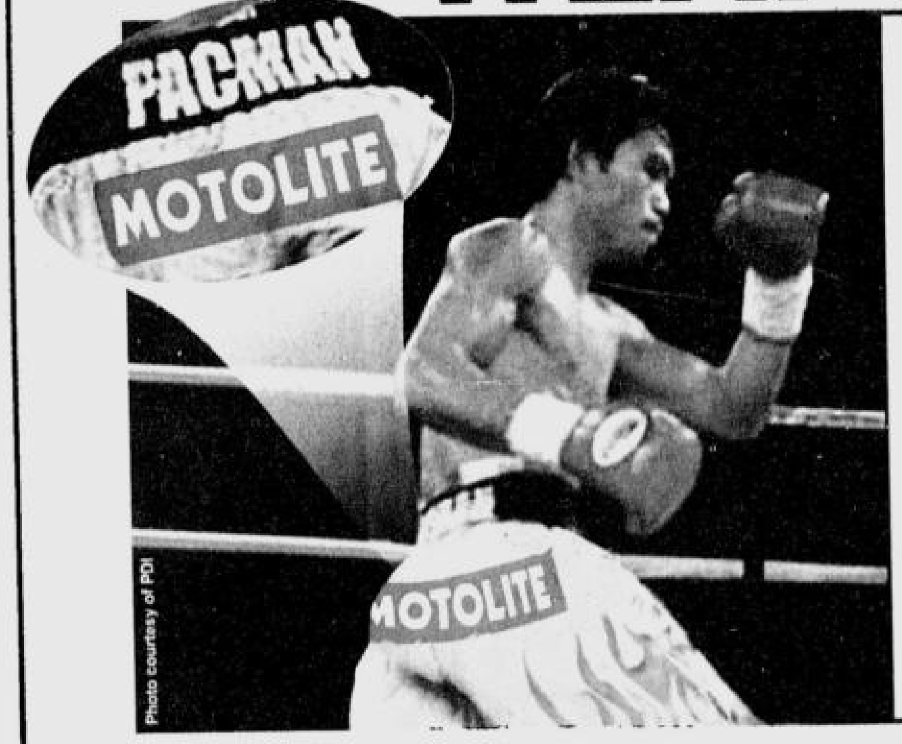
(Sgd.) SILVESTRE H. BELLO III
General Manager/CEO

(PDI--Feb. 4, 5 & 6, 2006)

MOTOLITE

MAS PANGMATAGALAN

PACMAN'S SECRET WEAPON!



NAGULAT ANG LAHAT SA LAKAS AT TIBAY NG MGA SUNTOK NI PACMAN NG PATUMBAHIN NYA SI MORALES...

ANG SIKRETO ...

MAY NAKAKABIT NA BATERYANG MOTOLITE SA PWET NI PACMAN!!!

MABUHAY KA PACMAN!
MABUHAY ANG PINOY!
MATIBAY ANG PINOY!
PANGMATAGALAN !

Malayo ang mararating kahit di mo Tubigan!

MOTOLITE
TROPICALIZED
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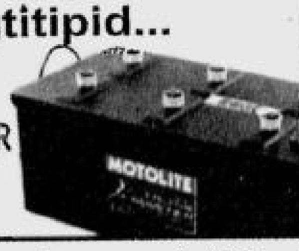

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Editor **Nestor U. Torre**
Assistant Editor **Rito P. Asilo**

NOW SHOWING

Witherspoon, Phoenix head for Oscar glory

WITHERSPOON AND PHOENIX. Blood-and-guts passion and musical precision.

By Rito P. Asilo

"Walk the Line"

D: James Mangold
S: Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon

JOAQUIN PHOENIX AND Reese Witherspoon fill James Mangold's deeply engrossing film adaptation of Johnny Cash's autobiographical books with boundless energy, blood-and-guts passion, razor-sharp focus and musical precision—as Cash and his muse, June Carter, respectively.

The movie's narrative arc—poverty, death in the family, fame, infidelity, drug abuse, substance withdrawal, and romance—may share parallelisms with "Ray," Taylor Hackford's Ray Charles biopic. But, Mangold's production is more than just a big-screen tribute, and goes beyond its poor country boy-makes-good thematic premise.

Haunted by the untimely demise of his better-liked brother, and constantly badgered by an emotionally abusive father (the superb Robert Patrick), Cash overcomes his personal demons to become one of American pop music's hottest singers in the '50s and '60s—only to "fall" again when he succumbs to anti-depressants and alcohol abuse.

Phoenix acts up a storm and sings like a pro. But, the film's sensational ace up its cinematic sleeve is the sassy Witherspoon. Reese revs up Mangold's production to thespic heights as the pixie-like spitfire, June. She charms her way into Johnny's heart—and into ours! And all the way to the coveted Oscar statuette, perhaps?

But, the movie's charms don't rest solely on Mangold's engaging storytelling and on the film's award-worthy performances. It doesn't yield to melodramatic mush, nor does it gloss over its protagonists' weaknesses, either—warts and all!

The director presents its narrative with infectious, palpable energy, and tells a tale that also smolders with dishy slices of pop history and Americana—with scenes that involve the young and promising Elvis Presley (Tyler Hilton) and Jerry Lee Lewis (Waylon Payne).

The movie dramatizes how a good man who's haunted by his painful past finally finds his redemption in the arms of a kind woman—who gives him his second chance to make wrong things right.

Johnny's search for affirmation and acceptance may have taken a lifetime, but when he finally finds the love of his life, he knows that she's ready to go the distance—and walk the long, rugged line with him!

"Derailed"

D: Mikael Hafstrom
S: Clive Owen, Jennifer Aniston

Mikael Hafström ("Ondskan/ Evil") gives the suspense-thriller genre a boost by casting charismatic actors ("Closer's" Clive Owen and "Friends'" Jennifer Aniston) against type—with mixed results.

In this serviceable but formulaic potboiler, based on James Siegel's cautionary novel about a one night stand that goes haywire, Owen plays married business executive, Charles Schine (Owen), who commences an extramarital affair with Lucinda Harris (Aniston), a beautiful banker he meets on the commuter train.

ANISTON. Cast against type.

Before Charles and Lucinda can consummate their act of infidelity, they are suddenly confronted by Philippe (the terrifying Vincent Cassel), a blackmailing conman who mauls Charles, rapes Lucinda, and filches money from the gullible, vulnerable duo.

However, when the French-speaking thug demands more cash, puts the lives of Charles' wife and daughter at risk, and threatens to destroy the reputation of the "psychologically fragile" Lucinda (who begs for discretion), the beleaguered protagonist decides to take matters into his own hands. But, as Charles later realizes, things—and people—aren't always what they seem!

Bangkok filmfest unreels Feb. 17-27

By Nestor U. Torre

FILM BUFFS IN SEARCH OF ACCESSIBLE filmfests in the region should make a beeline this month for the 2006 Bangkok International Film Festival, which unreels from Feb. 17 to 27.

Established in 2003, the Bangkok filmfest showcases some 200 feature and short films, both story and documentary, with special sections devoted to Southeast Asian (Asean) films.

Sections

There are five competitive sections for the Golden Kinnaree Awards: International Competition (international feature films), Asean competition, New Voices (works by new directors), International Documentaries (feature-length), and Asian Short Films.

Out-of-competition modules include Special Participation, Thai Panorama (Thai films from the past year), and Windows on the World (international cinema).

The festival also features retrospective programs showcasing past works of acclaimed directors, and outdoor screenings. There will be red carpet gala screenings on Opening Night (Feb. 17) and Closing Night (Feb. 26).

On the Golden Kinnaree Awards: Each year, the festival invites filmmakers, actors and critics from around the world to be members of the jury for the films in competition. There are awards offered in 12 categories, including Lifetime Achievement and Career Achievement awards. The Awards Gala ceremony is on Feb. 24.

Film celebrities grace the Bangkok filmfest

BANGKOK/ A2-3

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Asean Tourism Ministers at The Pearl Farm Beach Resort

THE CITY OF DAVAO RECENTLY HOSTED the Asean Tourism Forum (ATF) 2006 last Jan. 13 to 21, the Asean regions premier travel trade event. The world renowned Pearl Farm Beach Resort was one of the fourteen properties designated as official hotels and proudly hosted several meetings and press conferences of the Tourism Ministers and the National Tourism Organizations and have, as guests, the Asean governmental delegations led by our very own Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano.

Nestled on the quiet side of Samal Island in the Philippines, the Pearl Farm Beach Resort is a mere 45-minute boat ride from the wharf in the main island of Davao City. Once a pearl farm, this 14-hectare spread is a luxurious haven with 73 Maranao and Samal influence-designed deluxe rooms, suites and cottages perched on stilts above the sea; infinity pools and other fun facilities and amenities.

Guests can start their day with a scrumptious breakfast buffet at the Maranao - Restaurant which features delicious Filipino and International cuisine with fresh seafood specialties. The Ylang Ylang Spa is a certifiably unique spa experience using health and beauty products made out of the most natural of ingredients. The resort has badminton/tennis/basketball courts available and a panorama of water sports activities is also accessible.

Pearl Farm Beach Resort has been a Kalakbay "Best Resort of the Year" awardee for two consecutive years and is managed by Fuego Hotels and Properties. For inquiries and reservations call (02)750-1896 or 750-1898 and visit www.pearlfarmresort.com or www.fuegohotels.com.

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Red Temptation is The Bellevue Hotel's Drink of the Month. Sample the featured drink for only P300++ and take home Pugsley, a cute stuffed toy, for free. Extend Valentine Celebration at 20/20 Entertainment Center on Feb. 15 and spend that extra special night with the Passage Band, the group who popularized 'You Won't See Me Crying', 'Till my Heartaches End' and 'Forever'. Entertainment starts at 9 p.m., brought to you in part by 96.3 WRock, tickets are available at The Bellevue front desk, Cafe D' Asie and 20/20 entertainment bar. For inquiries, call The Bellevue at 771-8181.

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THE ISO 9001:2000 CERTIFIED CITY GARDEN HOTEL MAKATI, PRESents banquet packages geared to take away the hassles and stress of doing it on your own. Party packages goes for as low as P24,750+ inclusive of buffet menu or barbecue grill and discounts on drinks. Its wedding and debut packages come for as low as P59,000+ inclusive of a buffet menu for 100 persons, a cake, souvenirs, floral arrangements, and other amenities. Receptions venues may be held at its cozy, fully -equipped function rooms or at the al fresco Roofdeck, with a wonderful view of the metropolis. Hold your party on a weekday and enjoy further discount of almost 10-30 percent from the package. City Garden Hotel's tastefully elegant guest rooms come for as low as P1,450 per person on twin-sharing basis inclusive of a choice of free sumptuous buffet breakfast for two or a Spa service at the hotel's Body & Face by Mendez, free use of its open-air swimming pool at the Roofdeck and its fully equipped Gym at the Penthouse. Two (2) children below 12 years of age, stay for free. For those one-on-one meetings, it has two restaurants that you can choose from. For this month, Le Jardin Restaurant, with its warm and relaxing dining experience, and its more popular Roofdeck Bar and Grill that gives you a cozy dining experience with a great view of the Makati skyline, is offering its Chef's Special of "Ribs BBQ & Grills". Enjoy mouth-watering steaks, ribs and lamb chops garnished with corn on a cob, grilled onions, tomato and aubergine.

Restoring the past, visiting the future

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE WATERfront Insular Hotel Davao was the hotel of choice for visitors to the city. Indeed the hotel, now the Gatchallan-group-owned Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao, still holds dominion over the others in terms of physical infrastructure such as space and location. Massive face-lifting has been undertaken in the property to recapture its pride of place and accommodate the enhanced latter day demands of travelers, whether businessmen or holiday-makers. But even as full upgrading is still taking place, every effort is being made to maintain the charm of the old Davao Insular. But not everything is aesthetics. The hotel is very environment friendly. The water treatment allows pure potable water to be supplied to every guestroom and the sewage treatment sees to it that no toxic wastes are ever drained to the sea. Davaoenos will be proud once again of their hotel, where memories are kept and where they can relive the past.

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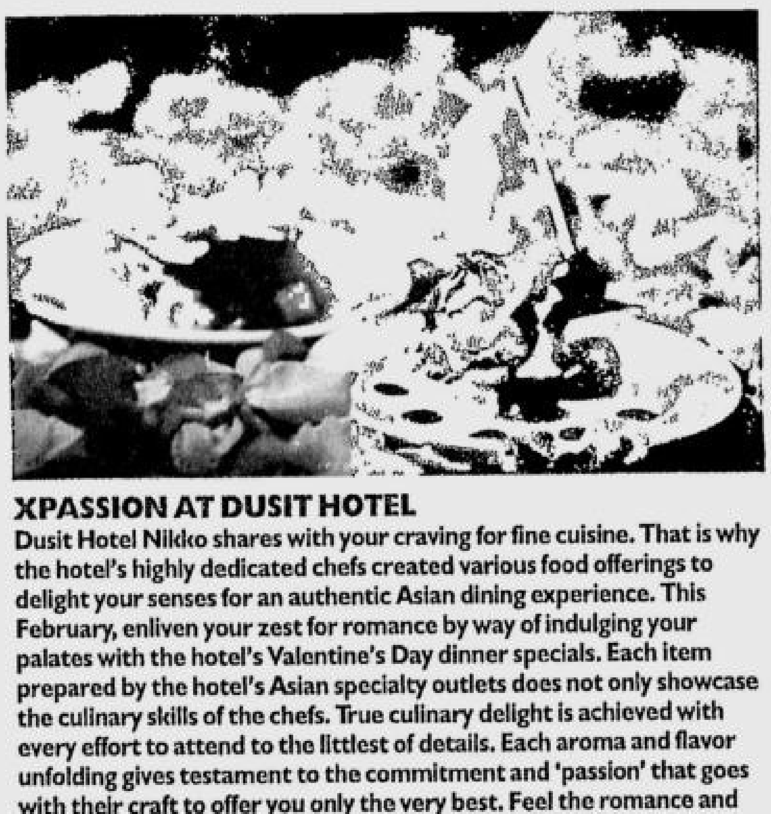
Coffee embraces beef in this espresso-marinated and coffee crusted U.S. Certified Angus Beef Striploin steak. This unique steak is served with sautéed vegetables and a choice of sauce and siding. It is just one of the many grilled specialties offered by Fire Lake Grill, owned by chef Paul Huang. Chef Paul's creative passion for food clearly shows in the way he mixes traditional Continental cuisine with quaint eclectic touches. Each dish treasures a familiar taste, yet intrigues the palate with a pleasant surprise. If you are looking for great food served in an intimate setting this Valentine's Day, visit Fire Lake Grill located at Unit 3, Cliffhouse Tagaytay, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City, Cavite. For inquiries and reservations, call (046) 413-2069, (0927) 914-4604, or e-mail firelake@pacific.net.ph.



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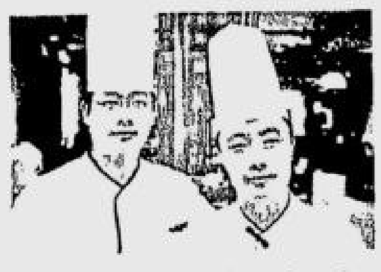
Dusit Hotel Nikko shares with your craving for fine cuisine. That is why the hotel's highly dedicated chefs created various food offerings to delight your senses for an authentic Asian dining experience. This February, enliven your zest for romance by way of indulging your palates with the hotel's Valentine's Day dinner specials. Each item prepared by the hotel's Asian specialty outlets does not only showcase the culinary skills of the chefs. True culinary delight is achieved with every effort to attend to the littlest of details. Each aroma and flavor unfolding gives testament to the commitment and 'passion' that goes with their craft to offer you only the very best. Feel the romance and savor the best of Asian gastronomy only at Dusit Hotel Nikko. For inquiries, contact 867-3333. Advance dining reservation is advised.

The best of Beijing at Mandarin

TAKE PLEASURE IN THE sovereign flavours of one of China's best in cuisine, as Mandarin Oriental in association with Hilton Beijing and Philippine Airlines presents "The Best of Beijing", on Jan. 28 to Feb. 12 at Tin Hau with the wondrous tandem of guest chefs Qi Peng Tao Andy and Ma Meng Nick.

Beijing cuisine is diverse in nature and is notable for its hundreds of dishes with special flavours, which cannot be found elsewhere in China. Beijing food also known as Northern food, is a result of the combining styles from chefs who came all over the country to cook for the royal court - Hebei, Shangdong, Lower Yangzi River area, Inner Mongolia, and Xinjiang. Hence, Beijing dishes are usually dominated by meat which is the staple of the ruling class.



Qi Peng Tao Andy joined Hilton Beijing as assistant sous chef in 2003. Ma Meng Nick on the other hand, is known for his panache in making Peking ducks, since 2001 when he joined Hilton Beijing.

Sample some of Beijing's ambrosial dishes offered for lunch and dinner in a special a la carte menu, which include among others - marinated Beijing duck, roasted five spice marinated pork belly, ginseng and black chicken soup, stir-fried sea cucumber with ginger and leek, traditional Beijing noodle with vegetables and stewed pork, and hot black sesame soup. For enquiries and reservations, call Tin Hau at 750-8888 extension 2422/2424.

A musical theater star is born

By Andy Bais

DIAZ. Her hard work has paid off beautifully.

IN THE COURSE OF HIS PROLIFIC directing career, Nestor U. Torre has worked with his share of stars. But, he feels even more gratified when he helps discover gifted new talents, and showcase them in challenging lead roles.

His unique touch has worked wonders in helping launch the performing careers of exceptional talents like Isay Alvarez, Robert Seña, Angelique Lazo, Jograd dela Torre, Gigi Posadas, Bimbo Cerrudo and Rossana Ordoñez.

Lead performers

Torre continues to discover new lead performers in his most recent productions: In "Birhen ng Caysasay," female leads Nicole David and Ira Marasigan, and child singer Mica. In "Be Not Afraid," Robby Romero, Chichi Atienza and Trish Katipunan.

And in his latest musical, "Pag-ibig sa Bayan," Torre has entrusted the female lead role of Bing Pimentel (cast opposite Marco Sison, no less) to an exceptionally gifted singer-actress, Jane Diaz.

The musical's new find may be unknown to most theater buffs, but she's been performing for years, as a standout member of the acclaimed Madrigal Singers.

Torre first worked with Jane in last year's hit musical, "Birhen ng Caysasay." A key role in the show was to be played by a name singer, but illness sidelined her a few days before opening night at the CCP, so a replacement had to be found right away.

Jane was recommended by National Artist Andrea Veneracion, and she turned out to be not only gifted, but a hard worker, as well!

When Bing Pimentel asked Torre to write and direct the Martial Law musical, "Pag-ibig sa Bayan," they agreed that singing star Marco Sison should play Nene Pimentel. When it came to the role of Bing, however, Torre opted to cast not a star, but gifted newcomer Jane.

Judgment

Having worked together with Torre in past productions, Bing trusted his judgment implicitly, and went along with his decision.

Jane worked long and hard on her lead role, and impressed her fellow performers, including Marco, who marveled at her beautiful and expressive singing voice.

The new female lead, guided by her supportive director, rehearsed over and over to make her performance more dynamic, versatile and insightful, as stage musicals require.

She was advised to strive to be extra good, because when it comes to new talents, local audiences tend to have an "impress me" attitude.

Ovation

All of Jane's hard work paid off beautifully on the gala performance of "Pag-ibig sa Bayan" at Meralco Theater. The VIP audience welcomed her as a major musical-theater find, and rewarded her intense performance with a most enthusiastic ovation.

Jane was gratified by the demanding audience's unequivocal response, and strove to do even better in the musical's subsequent performances.

For proof positive, catch the last two Meralco Theater performances of "Pag-ibig sa Bayan" today at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and help welcome Jane Diaz, Philippine musical theater's newest star!

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PAGE. One of the most recognizable faces in Manila from 1948 to 1953.

Joan Page's memorable Philippine experiences

By Behn Cervantes

(Conclusion)

FILIPINOS LOVED JOAN PAGE, THE American performer who bothered to reach out to them in their own language. When she was chosen to topbill the radio serial, "Edong Mapangarap," she initially had her lines written in English.

After a while, however, there was no need to do that, because she had learned to speak the language—*with* the charming *kano* accent, of course! Her effort was so sincere that she even received fan mail from the Communist movement's Luis Taruc!

Admiration

Last year, when Joan came here for a "sentimental" visit, she finally met Taruc, who reiterated his admiration for her efforts to reach out to her admiring fans. Sadly, soon after, Taruc passed away.

Page was one of the most recognizable faces in Manila from 1948 to 1953, but the statuesque blonde's popularity didn't stop her from taking jeepney and bus rides. She was welcomed everywhere.

Retirement

In the States, she became a Blue Cross representative because of her *Pinoy* connection. Upon retirement, she was feted with a barrio fiesta reminiscent of Sampaguita Studios' grand celebrations—with *lechon* and other Filipino goodies!

When Joan stepped out of the plane last year for her visit, she felt that she had truly come home!

Bangkok filmfest unreels Feb. 17-27

From page A2-1

every year, adding to its excitement, appeal and cachet. Last year, luminaries who attended the festival included Jackie Chan, Michael Douglas, Colin Farrell, Jeremy Irons, Miranda Richardson, Oliver Stone, Bai Ling, Agnes Varda and Wong Kar-Wai.

Master classes

The filmfest also hosts seminars, workshops and master classes in film-related subjects. Another unique aspect of the festival is the Cinematographer's Day event, which invites the world's leading cinematographers to talk about their craft and art.

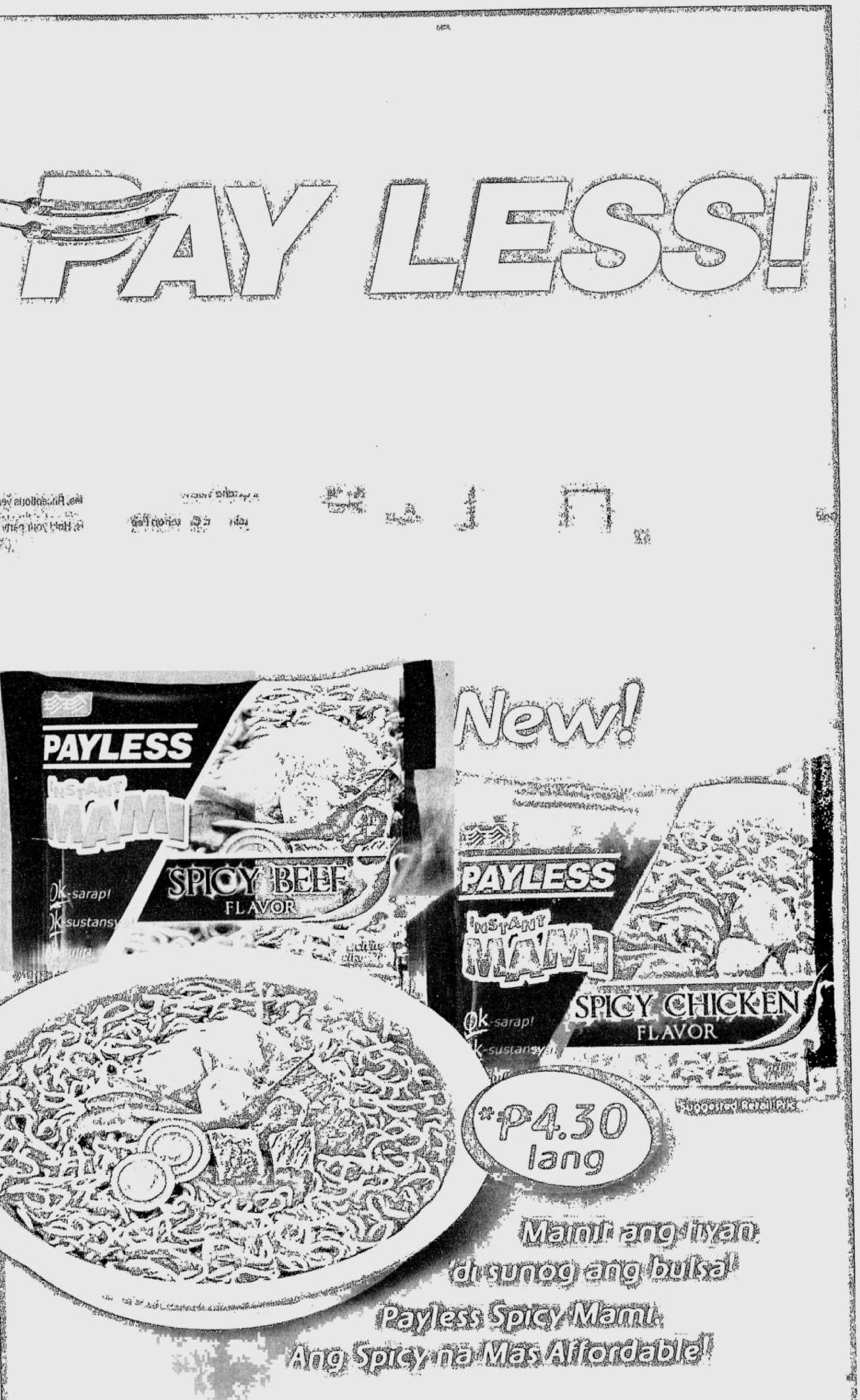
In addition, the Bangkok Film Market is held concurrently (Feb. 20 -24) with the festival. It aims to be an industry showcase where representatives from film companies in different countries can come to meet and do business.

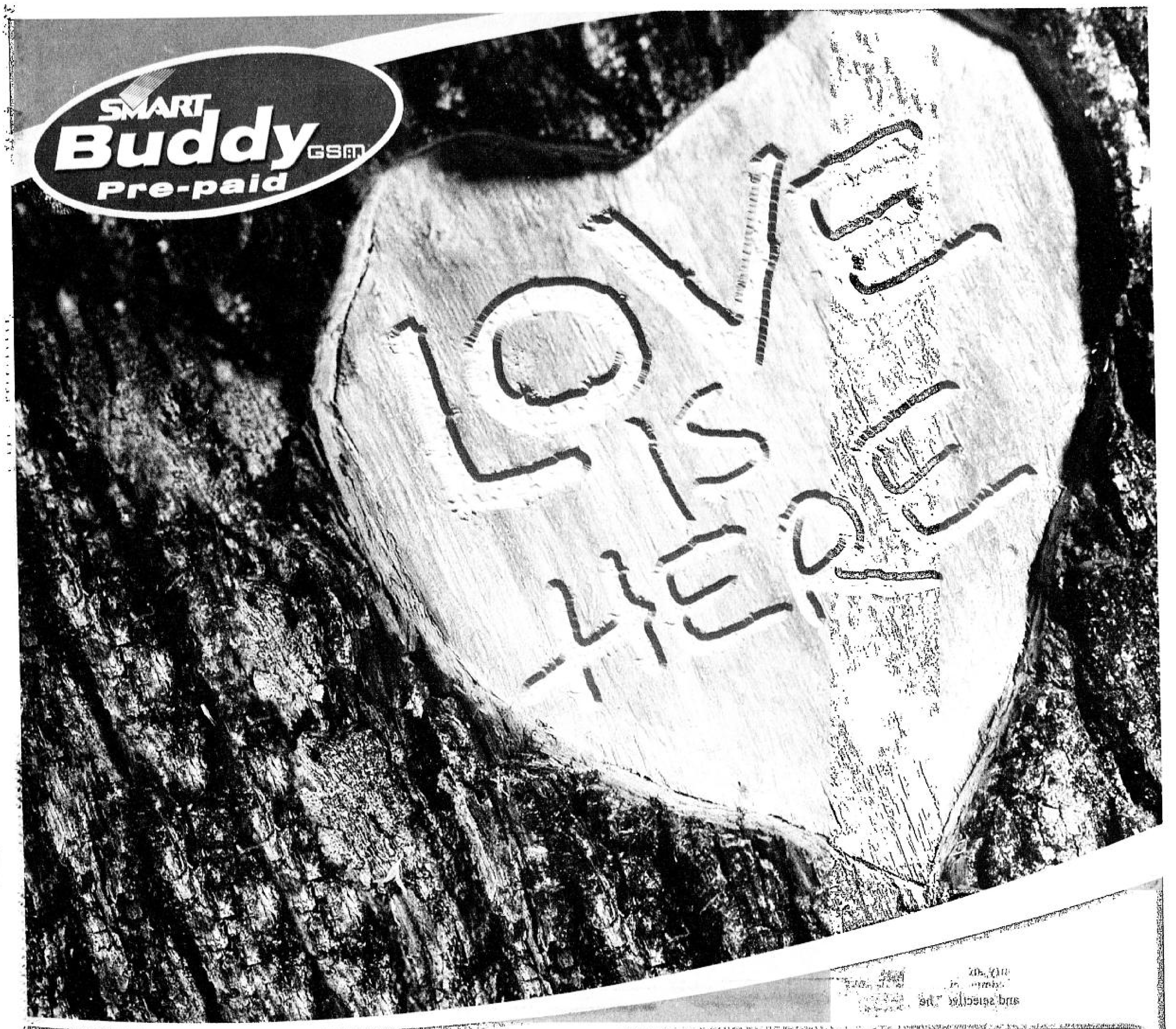
Good business sense

So, it makes good business sense for Asian producers and distributors to participate in the Bangkok filmfest and market.

Film buffs should also have a field day watching festival movies from morning till night. Now that travel and accommodation packages to Bangkok have become more affordable than ever, more Filipino lovers of good movies should give the Bangkok filmfest a go.

For further information log on to www.bangkokfilm.org. The main organizing body of the festival is the Tourism Authority of Thailand.





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David Pomeranz	King And Queen Of Hearts	103862
Wet Wet Wet	Love Is All Around	103780
Bryan Adams	(Everything I Do) I Do It For You	103587
Kelly Clarkson	Because Of You	103490
Jojo	Weak	103476
Maroon 5	This Love	103188
Backstreet Boys	I Still	103378
Air Supply	All Out Of Love	103098
Richard Marx	Right Here Waiting	102875
Julia Fordham	Love Moves In Mysterious Ways	102867
Norah Jones	Come Away With Me	102715
Ronan Keating	When You Say Nothing At All	102252
Savage Garden	Truly Madly Deeply	101518
Celine Dion	Because You Loved Me	101472

OPM

ARTIST	TITLE	RING ID
Yasmien Kurdi	In The Name Of Love	104039
Nikki Gil	If I Keep My Heart Out Of Sight	104037
Jinky Vidal	Really Over You	104030
April	Stay Real	103968
Hale	Kung Wala Ka	103866
MYMP	Huwag Mo Nang Itanong	103857
South Border Feat Kelly Badon	With A Smile	103850
Kyla	Because Of You	103525
Side A	All I Need	103340
Bamboo	Much Has Been Said	103259
Cueshe	Stay	103210
Sarah Geronimo	I Want To Know What Love Is	102926
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Boys II Men	On Bended Knee	BENDEDKNEE
Carpenters	(They Long To Be) Close To You	CLOSE2U
Carpenters	I Won't Last A Day Without You	WNTLASTADAY
Diana Ross & The Supremes	Stop ! In The Name Of Love	NAMEOFLUV
Donna Cruz	Kapag Tumibok Ang Puso	TIBOK
Ella May Saison & Jun Polistico	Magkasuyo Buong Gabi	MAGKASUYO
Freestyle	Before I Let You Go	B4ILETUGO
Jaya	Beauty & Madness	BEAUTY
Jojo	Baby It's You	BABYITSU
Jojo	Weak	WEAK
Mariah Carey	Don't Forget About Us	DONT4GET
Mariah Carey	We Belong Together	WEBELONG
Natalie	Energy	ENERGY
Pops Fernandez w/ Freestyle	Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang	BKTNGAYN
Regine Velasquez	Ikaw	IKAW
Ronan Keating	When You Say Nothing At All	WENUSAY
Sarah Geronimo	How Could You Say You Love Me	HOWCUD
Sarah Geronimo	Can This Be Love	CANTHIS
Sarah Geronimo & Mark Bautista	Broken Vow	BROKENVOW
South Border	Too Crazy	2CRAZY
South Border	Sweet	SWEET
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Burn	BURN
Do I Need A Reason	REASON
Endless Love	ENDLESSLUV
Every Little Thing She Does is Magic	EVRYLILTHING
Got To Believe in Magic	GOT2BELIV
Hands To Heaven	HANDS2HEAVN
Hanggang Kailan (Umuwi Ka Na Baby)	HANGGANG
Harana	HARANA
I Didn't Know I Was Looking for Love	LUKN4LUV
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SATURDAY Special

Busy year ahead for Sharon

By Jocelyn Valle

MARK TWAIN ONCE SAID, "TWENTY YEARS from now, you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the things you did." Sharon Cuneta agrees.

"I regret not having finished school," she confesses. "I got married and had a baby, but I could have chosen to pursue my studies. Now, I have to wait for my young daughters, Frankie and Miel, to grow bigger before I can go back to school."

Temper

Surprisingly, the Megastar admits to having a temper. "Sometimes, I get angry at myself," she sighs. "I get upset when people pretend to know me well—when they say something about me that's a lie. When I feel the need to let it out, I sometimes question God: 'Are you listening to me?' Then later, I'd be on my knees to beg for forgiveness for my arrogance. I remind myself *na ang kapal ng mukha ko* to complain!"

For the past two years, Sharon has shunned show biz work because she wanted to take care of Frankie and Miel. "That's why I got so big," acknowledges the multimedia icon, whose battle with the bulge has kept the public wondering and worrying.

Tired of being fat

"I allowed myself to get big—and *that* was my fault! Nobody could convince me to lose weight. *Kahit anong pintas, wala akong pakialam!* Then, one day, I woke up and felt tired of being fat. So, I decided to do something about it."

Now visibly trimmer, Sharon, at 40, kicks off a new phase in her career. After whetting the appetite of her fans with a birthday concert last Jan. 8 at the Ultra, the Megastar will celebrate the Valentine month with a special concert at the Araneta Coliseum, "My Mega Valentine." Christopher de Leon, Kuh Ledesma and Christian Bautista will join her in the show.

Special

"I've been in love with Boyet since I was 13, and I still get star-struck when I work with him in the movies. I'm touched and honored that Boyet and Kuh agreed to do the show with me. Together with Christian, they will make the evening special," she beams.

After "My Mega Valentine," Sharon will concentrate on her new TV show on Channel 2. Then, she will start shooting her film projects for Star Cinema (with Aga Muhlach) and for Unitel.

CUNETA. Valentine concert at the Big Dome.

Celebrity 'PBB' premieres tonight

By Nestor U. Torre

OPENING TONIGHT ON ABS-CBN IS THE celebrity edition of the popular "Pinoy Big Brother" challenge. The first edition featuring unknowns was a hit, so it's expected that the celebrity version will be even more popular with viewers.

Naturally, people want to know who the celebrity "housemates" will be, but most everybody involved in the program has been sworn to secrecy.

Secrets

Still, there are no absolute secrets in the Philippines, so some names have leaked out—among them, Rosanna Roces and Rustom Padilla. How reliable are these preview feeds? Well, by tonight, we'll definitely know!

In any case, the celebrity version should be a big deal with viewers, because they now have readily identifiable figures to observe, gossip about, get shocked by, and identify with.

As for Big Brother and the other faceless people involved in the show, they'll have their work cut out for them to keep the challenge "eventful" and "colorful," while still passing muster with the MTRCB.

The "colorful" part is easy, since some of the celebrities are expected to do their darnedest to vigorously assert themselves and run away with the show—especially if they have flagging careers to perk up!

But, how to make sure that their actuations aren't excessive? Ah, *that* will take some doing.

The production will have to make vigorous use of its editing and bleeping powers, so that the MTRCB, goaded by incensed viewers, won't pull the plug on the program.

More interesting

As far as we're concerned, the celebrity "PBB" is more interesting than the first edition, because the initial batch of housemates were generally so shallow and predictable that they soon overstayed their welcome.

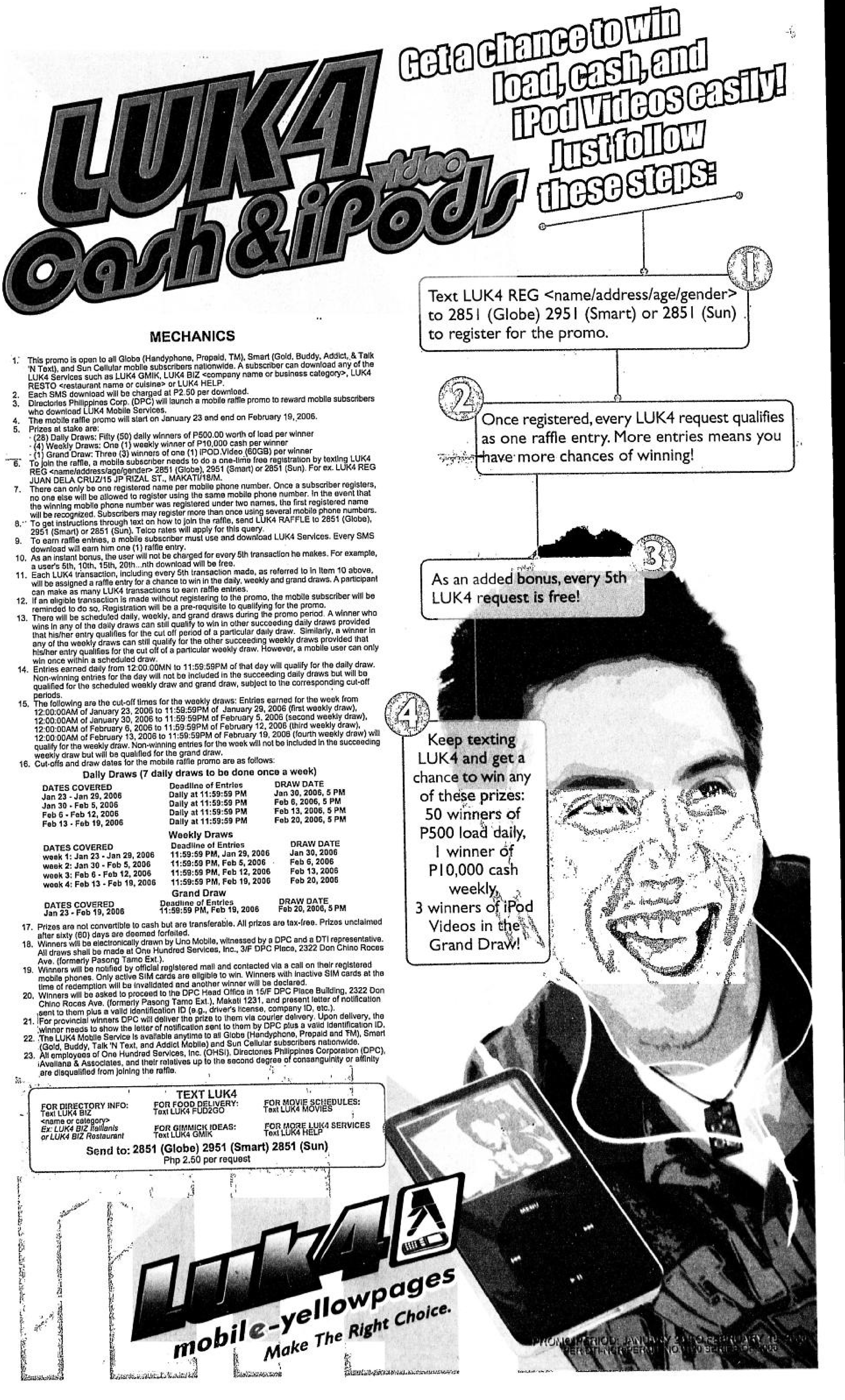
Even when they were doing their best—or worst—to be quotable or even shocking, they remained pat and lacking in texture and fascinating character.

On the other hand, people become celebrities because they have mastered the art and craft of coming across as unique individuals. So, we expect the celebrity housemates to come on strong and assert themselves as *sui generis,*

In fact, the potential fascination for us is how long they can sustain their "real performances" on the show. After some days, some stars' carefully-constructed career image could crack, or be dropped altogether, finally revealing the real person behind the celebrity.

That would be a truly illuminating moment as far as the psychology of celebrity is concerned, so we're looking forward to seeing it happen. So, we wager, will be psychologists and other social scientists who share our interest in the similarities and differences between "real" people and "unreal" celebrities—and the fascinating and instructive vagaries in between!

ROCES. Will she be part of the highly-anticipated second batch of "housemates"?



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4. The mobile raffle promo will start on January 23 and end on February 19, 2006.
5. Prizes at stake are:
   - (28) Daily Draws: Fifty (50) daily winners of P500.00 worth of load per winner
   - (4) Weekly Draws: One (1) weekly winner of P10,000 cash per winner
   - (1) Grand Draw: Three (3) winners of one (1) IPOD Video (60GB) per winner
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12. If an eligible transaction is made without registering to the promo, the mobile subscriber will be reminded to do so. Registration will be a pre-requisite to qualifying for the promo.
13. There will be scheduled daily, weekly, and grand draws during the promo period. A winner who wins in any of the daily draws can still qualify to win in other succeeding daily draws provided that his/her entry qualifies for the cut off period of a particular daily draw. Similarly, a winner in any of the weekly draws can still qualify for the other succeeding weekly draws provided that his/her entry qualifies for the cut off of a particular weekly draw. However, a mobile user can only win once within a scheduled draw.
14. Entries earned daily from 12:00:00MN to 11:59:59PM of that day will qualify for the daily draw. Non-winning entries for the day will not be included in the succeeding daily draws but will be qualified for the scheduled weekly draw and grand draw, subject to the corresponding cut-off periods.
15. The following are the cut-off times for the weekly draws: Entries earned for the week from 12:00:00AM of January 23, 2006 to 11:59:59PM of January 29, 2006 (first weekly draw), 12:00:00AM of January 30, 2006 to 11:59:59PM of February 5, 2006 (second weekly draw), 12:00:00AM of February 6, 2006 to 11:59:59PM of February 12, 2006 (third weekly draw), 12:00:00AM of February 13, 2006 to 11:59:59PM of February 19, 2006 (fourth weekly draw) will qualify for the weekly draw. Non-winning entries for the week will not be included in the succeeding weekly draw but will be qualified for the grand draw.
16. Cut-offs and draw dates for the mobile raffle promo are as follows:

Daily Draws (7 daily draws to be done once a week)

DATES COVERED	Deadline of Entries	DRAW DATE
Jan 23 - Jan 29, 2006	Daily at 11:59:59 PM	Jan 30, 2006, 5 PM
Jan 30 - Feb 5, 2006	Daily at 11:59:59 PM	Feb 6, 2006, 5 PM
Feb 6 - Feb 12, 2006	Daily at 11:59:59 PM	Feb 13, 2006, 5 PM
Feb 13 - Feb 19, 2006	Daily at 11:59:59 PM	Feb 20, 2006, 5 PM

Weekly Draws

DATES COVERED	Deadline of Entries	DRAW DATE
week 1: Jan 23 - Jan 29, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Jan 29, 2006	Jan 30, 2006
week 2: Jan 30 - Feb 5, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Feb 5, 2006	Feb 6, 2006
week 3: Feb 6 - Feb 12, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Feb 12, 2006	Feb 13, 2006
week 4: Feb 13 - Feb 19, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Feb 19, 2006	Feb 20, 2006

Grand Draw

DATES COVERED	Deadline of Entries	DRAW DATE
Jan 23 - Feb 19, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Feb 19, 2006	Feb 20, 2006, 5 PM

17. Prizes are not convertible to cash but are transferable. All prizes are tax-free. Prizes unclaimed after sixty (60) days are deemed forfeited.
18. Winners will be electronically drawn by Uno Mobile, witnessed by a DPC and a DTI representative. All draws shall be made at One Hundred Services, Inc., 3/F DPC Place, 2322 Don Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo Ext.).
19. Winners will be notified by official registered mail and contacted via a call on their registered mobile phones. Only active SIM cards are eligible to win. Winners with inactive SIM cards at the time of redemption will be invalidated and another winner will be declared.
20. Winners will be asked to proceed to the DPC Head Office in 15/F DPC Place Building, 2322 Don Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo Ext.), Makati 1231, and present letter of notification sent to them plus a valid identification ID (e.g., driver's license, company ID, etc.).
21. For provincial winners DPC will deliver the prize to them via courier delivery. Upon delivery, the winner needs to show the letter of notification sent to them by DPC plus a valid identification ID.
22. The LUK4 Mobile Service is available anytime to all Globe (Handyphone, Prepaid and TM), Smart (Gold, Buddy, Talk 'N Text, and Addict Mobile) and Sun Cellular subscribers nationwide.
23. All employees of One Hundred Services, Inc. (OHSI), Directories Philippines Corporation (DPC), Avellana & Associates, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the raffle.

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Forbidden love, missed chances in 'Brokeback Mountain'

By Rito P. Asilo

IN "BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN," ANG Lee eloquently brings to the big screen E. Annie Proulx's achingly sad short story about two rough-mannered and tough-talking ranch hands, Ennis Del Mar (Heath Ledger) and Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal), who find love and passion on Wyoming's sprawling Brokeback Mountain.

Romance

If they were straight, their romance and love story would have easily taken the happily-ever-after route. But, oftentimes, "happiness" and acceptance are dictated by how people conform to rules set by a society that knows no better.

Ennis and Jack, neither of them 20 years old, meet for the first time in 1963, when they are hired as sheep herders on picture-perfect Brokeback Mountain. In the cold and lonely Wyoming hills, they find love—a love they don't see coming.

LEDGER. Soul-stirring perfromance.

In fact, after their first night of wild, drunken passion, Ennis tells Jack: "You know, I ain't no queer." Jack answers, "Me neither. A one-shot thing. Nobody's business but ours!"

But, as Proulx tersely describes in her book, "Without saying anything about it, both knew how it would go for the rest of the summer, sheep be damned. They never talked about the sex, they just let it happen."

When their summer job is done, Jack reluctantly asks, "You going to do this next summer?" Ennis dismisses his subtle query: "Maybe not. Alma (his fiancée, played by Michelle Williams) and I are getting married in December."

Charged moment

It takes four years before they see each other again. They're both married now (Jack to a successful Texas businessman's daughter, Lureen, played by Anne Hathaway), with kids. But, when they finally meet again, as director Lee deftly executes the memorably charged moment, Ennis and Jack's loneliness and longing for each other surge like a raging waterfall.

There is hardly any word exchanged, only unencumbered, violent kisses—so violent, in fact, that it catches Alma's attention!

She knew then that the fishing trips her husband and his best buddy would take once or twice a year for the next 20 years are more than just bonding sessions.

Go for broke

After some years, however, Jack wants more than just the occasional get-togethers. He's willing to go for broke: "Sometimes, I miss you so much I can hardly stand it. We could have a good life together!"

But, Ennis—haunted by a childhood memory of a gay man's violent death at the hands of bigots—refuses. Jack waits and waits—and waits. But, sometimes, love doesn't.

"Brokeback Mountain" bolsters its best-picture Oscar chances with its seamless production values—cinematography, production design and musical score—that anchor a story that, however unconventional, pays

FORBIDDEN/ A3-5

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

Misery

DON'T MEDITATE on your problems! This is the advice of spiritual teacher, Jagad Guru Siddhaswarupananda Paramahamsa, to seekers of truth. You should not expect to find solutions to your suffering by meditating on a miserable experience.

Jagad Guru gives the example of a person who gets lost in the desert: He crawls on his knees, feels his skin burn and his throat dry up.

Problem

Can he solve his problem by staring at the sun and focusing on his thirst? Will it do him any good if he shouts: "I'm miserable! Damn the sun and sand!"? Will it solve his problem if he repeats it over and

MISERY/ A3-4

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5 BLOODRAYNE

starmall EDSA SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160
3 SAW-2
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) BLOODRAYNE
5 DERAILED

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
2 LAGOT KA SA KUYA KO
3 ILUSYON
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 UNANG TIKIM
2 DERAILED
3 BLOODRAYNE

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 6433094
1 SAW-2
2 DERAILED
3 BLOODRAYNE
4 UNDERWORLD-2

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)-(4449346)
1 ZATHURA
2 DERAILED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) DERAILED
2 KUTOB
3 (DTS EX) RUMOR HAS IT
4 ZATHURA

THEATRES
NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, Telephone No (044) 600 3026
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 ZATHURA
3 JARHEAD

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 DERAILED
2 KUTOB
3 (DOLBY) RESERVED
4 (DTS) RESERVED

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8409
1 FAMILY STONE
2 THE FOG
3 (DOLBY) JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 (DTS) DON'T GIVE UP ON US

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-6271
1 ZATHURA
2 ST. ANGIE
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

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(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 HIGH RISK

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) MILLION DOLLAR BABY
2 VENUS
3 BIKTIMA
4 (DTS) HAUNTED SPIRIT

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) DERAILED
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 (DTS) ZATHURA
4 NIGHT JOB
5 THE MAID

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 FOUR BROTHERS
2 ZATHURA
3 RUMOR HAS IT
4 DERAILED

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 THE MAN
2 UNANG TIKIM

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Mowelfund needs unified support of film industry

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN WE HEARD THAT MOWELFUND WAS staging a fundraising concert at Merk's to make up for its lack of resources to help the local film industry's thousands of needy workers, we supported the endeavor by running Mowelfund head Boots Anson-Roa's request for assistance in this section.

Concert

We hope that the concert raised a big amount, because our movie workers are suffering now more than ever before, due to the big drop in film production.

But, even if the fundraising show made a million pesos, it still wouldn't be enough to tide our hurting movie people over. It's time,

MOWELFUND/ A3-4

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THIS IS THE STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED NEXT.
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www.munichmovie.com
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Distributed by United International Pictures through Solar Entertainment Corporation
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1. ZATHURA MTRCB. GP
   11.10, 3 30, 7 50
   CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 MTRCB:GP
   1 20, 5 40, 10 00
2. DERAILED
   MTRCB. R-13
   12 00, 2 30, 5 00, 7 30, 10 00
3. WALK THE LINE
   MTRCB. PG-13
   1:30, 4.20, 7:10, 10:00
4. SAW 2
   MTRCB . R-13
   1:20, 3.30, 5:40, 7.50, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE PROOF
MTRCB PG-13 1 50, 4 10, 6 30, 9 00

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BLOODRAYNE R13 1:35,3:45,5:55,8:05,10:15	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 GP 1:10,3:20,5:30,7:40,9:50	WALK THE LINE PG13 11:40,2:20,5:00, 7:40,10:20
PROOF PG13 1:00,3:15,5:30,7:45,10:00	ZATHURA GP 12:30,2:45,5:00, 7:15,9:30	DERAILED R13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30

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1. SAW 2
   2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:55, 11:00
   R-13
2. WALK THE LINE
   11:55, 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:00
   PG-13
3. DERAILED
   1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
   R-13
4. PROOF
   12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
   PG-13

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CINEMA 2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00 GP

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 DERAILED 10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10 R13

CINEMA 4 PROOF 11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:20, 10:35 PG13

CINEMA 5 WALK THE LINE 11:35, 2:20, 5:05, 7:50, 10:35 PG13

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A SPACE ADVENTURE
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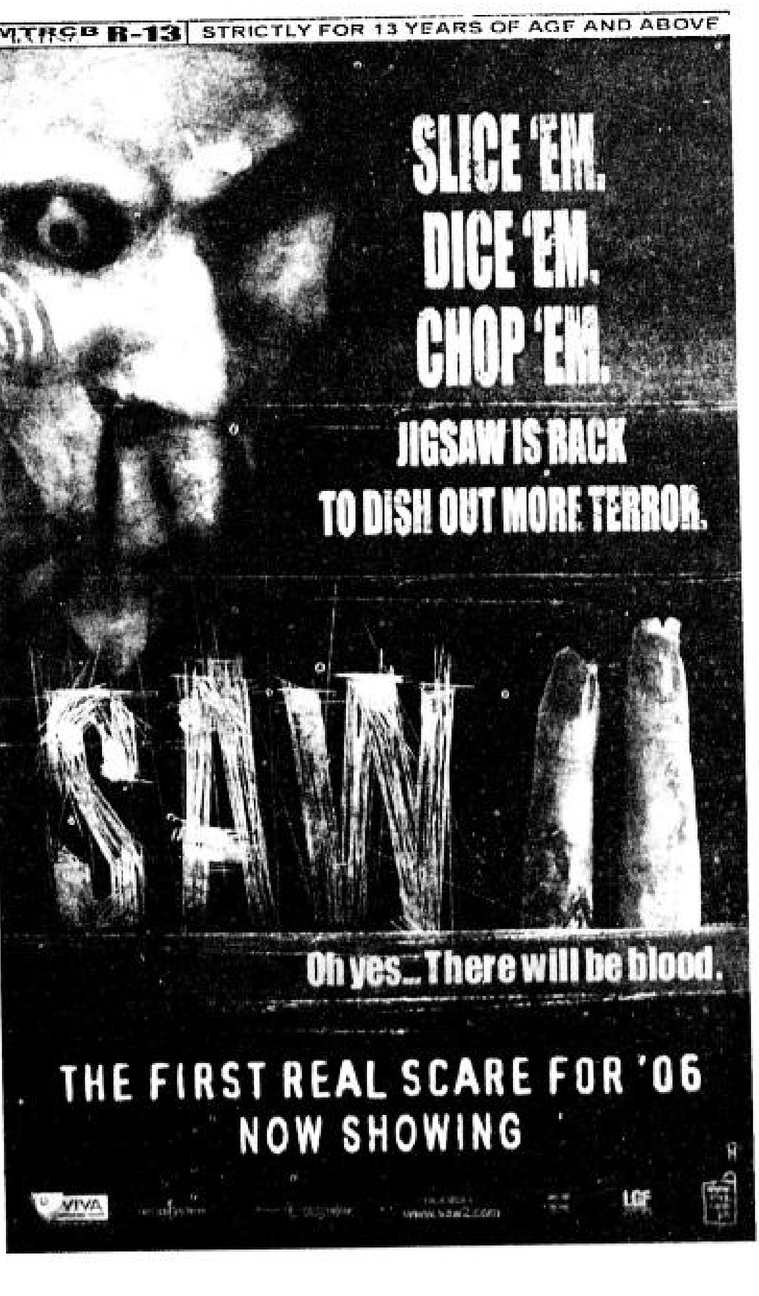
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Oh yes... There will be blood.
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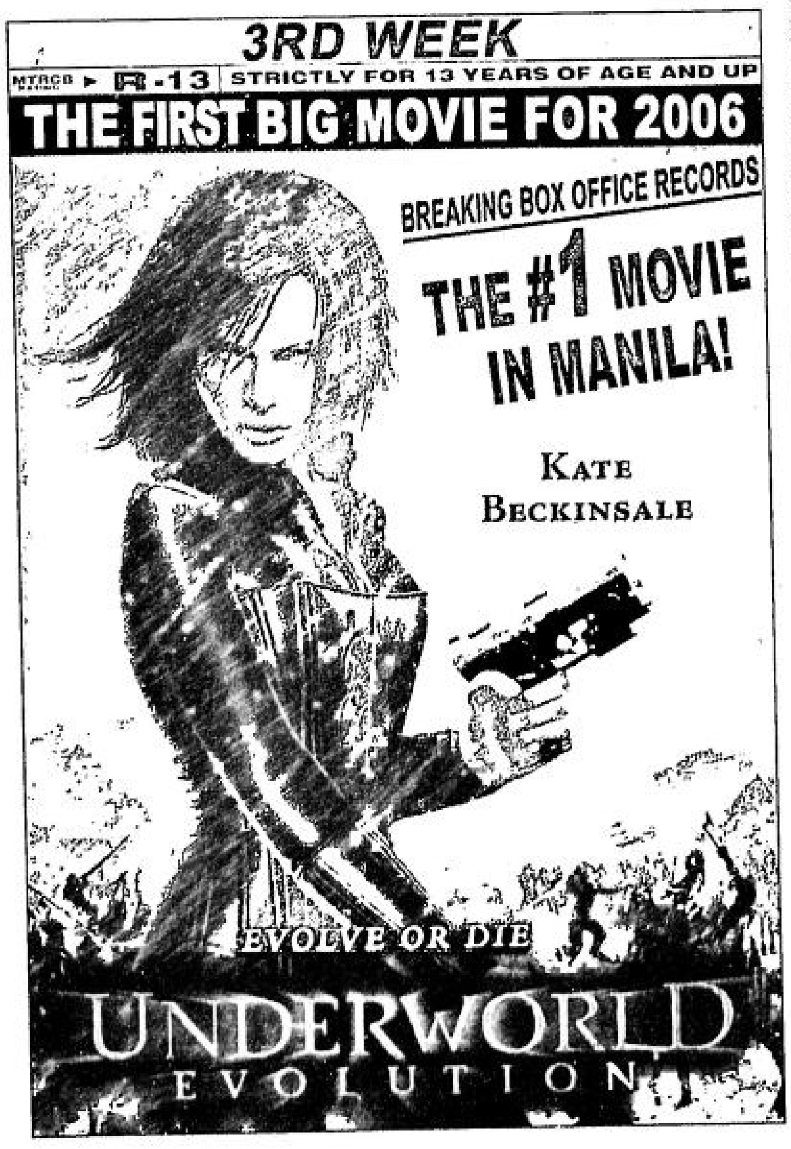
3RD WEEK
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STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
THE FIRST BIG MOVIE FOR 2006
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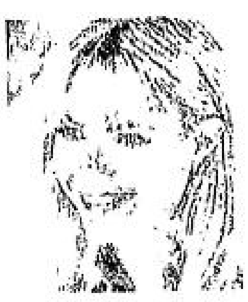
THE #1 MOVIE IN MANILA!
KATE BECKINSALE
EVOLVE OR DIE
UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION

Paltrow is too sane to be unstable

By Noelani Torre



PALTROW. Competent and understated.

IN THE FIRST SCENE of "Proof," we see a slightly frowning Gwyneth Paltrow, awash in the numbing light coming from the TV set, and listlessly surfing. Then, she holds a conversation with her father (Anthony Hopkins) who assures her that she's not crazy, even though he is. Then, he ends his speech by saying: "I'm also dead."

Yes, it's *that* kind of movie, the troubled mind kind. "Proof," however, is no "A Beautiful Mind." This is a quieter, more intimate film.

Brilliant

"Proof" started as a Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning play by David Auburn. It's about Catherine, a brilliant young woman struggling to come to terms with the death of her mathematician father—and with her own possible insanity.

Directed by John Madden, the film's mystery isn't quite as mysterious as its makers think it is, and it also falters as a relationship drama.

Part of the problem is in Paltrow's portrayal of Catherine. She is a very competent actress, and her understated performance is effective—particularly when she's fraught with grief over her father—*but* only up to a point.

She's simply not believable as a conflicted person who's terrified that she might be going mad. She's too solid. You just know that she's really sane. So, there goes your psychological mystery.

Dissertation student

As for Hopkins, he looks like he's just going through the motions. He and Paltrow don't click as a consequence, and neither does the other male lead, Jake Gyllenhaal, who plays Hal, Hopkins' dissertation student.

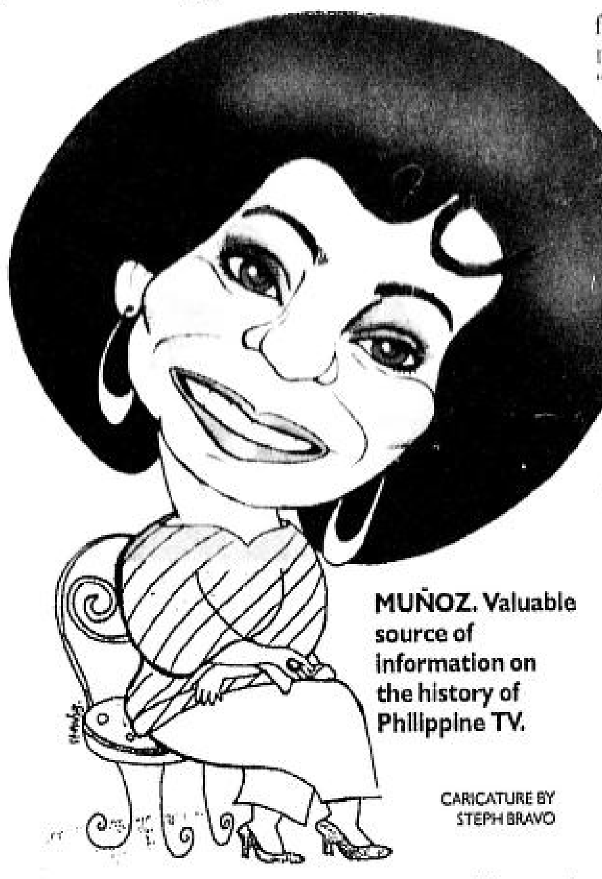
But, it's not Gyllenhaal's fault. His eagerness to please is charming, but he's too cute and too physically *there* to be credible as a math geek.

If you've ever been around math nerds, then you know that they don't have pecs like Gyllenhaal's. He even has a rock band, for pete's sake!

PALTROW/ A3-5

Starting the year right with Tita Muñoz

By Nestor U. Torre



MUÑOZ. Valuable source of information on the history of Philippine TV.

CARICATURE BY STEPH BRAVO

THANKS TO LOVELY THEATER icon, Tita Muñoz, we started 2006 off with a bang—and a burp! Along with good friends Nikki Ross and Behn Cervantes, Tita invited us for a New Year lunch at her Avalon Apartments aerie.

The Hungarian goulash, cheese-plate, dip and wine Tita whipped up for us were yummy, but what made our three hours with her memorable was the conversation.

Since the company was decidedly golden (and, in Tita's case, diamond) the talk went the full range and spectrum of news *plus* nostalgia—all the way back to the earliest days of television in the Philippines, in fact.

Programs

Our friends knew whereof they spoke, because they were there. In fact, Tita and Nikki recalled that they appeared in some of the earliest live programs on the local TV screen.

In addition, Tita helped manage one of the first TV stations in the country, performing all sorts of tasks, both on-camera and off.

As they provided instructive details and colorful anecdotes about those early days, we realized that Tita and Nikki were valuable sources of "been-there, done-that" information that would be important inputs in a book on the history of television in the Philippines that should be written—soonest!

For our part, we recalled that the first time we watched TV was when we flew to Manila to compete in the Voice of Democracy finals, and we were billeted by Ateneo de Cagayan rector, Fr. Fritz Araneta, in the mansion of his brother, Luis.

The Araneta home had one of the first TV sets in Manila, but it was very small, just a tiny box, really, with primitive black-and-white images flickering on its tiny screen. And yet, it had a major impact on us, making us feel like we were seeing the dawn of an exciting, new age of ultra-modern technology.

Years later, we worked on Fr. James B. Reuter's "Family Theater" show on the tube. Since videotape had yet to be invented, all local programs were aired live! That was a huge challenge for a complicated dramatic production like "Family Theater," so we learned a lot about serious problem-solving, while breezily winging it and looking like everything was going perfectly.

Later during our long lunch with Tita, the talk included the movies and theater, as well, and this was when Behn came into his own. He's not only worked extensively in those two fields, but he also happens to be a trivia expert who can tell you anything about everything related to those twin arts.

Knowledge

As Behn held forth, we delighted not just in his encyclopedic knowledge, but also in the abiding love for film and theater that had made him such a buff and expert in the first place. If only other workers in those fields were as dedicated and passionate!

At the end of our long lunch, we left Tita's apartment with our ears buzzing, not just from the two bottles of wine we had "killed," but also from all the stories that had been told, and the love that had been shared.

Have a truly happy 2006, Tita, Nikki, Behn—and etc.!

Mowelfund needs unified support . . .

From page A3-3

therefore, for all people concerned about the problem to collectively solve it in a more dynamic manner.

It's important for us to know that the problem was exacerbated some years ago, when the Metro Manila Film Festival drastically reduced its annual subsidy to Mowelfund, and gave the money to another organization.

Insensitive

This shocked Mowelfund's board of directors, and we met with some of them and then wrote an article bewailing the extremely insensitive and even cruel decision. Happily, part of the money lost was subsequently given back to Mowelfund.

But, Mowelfund's beneficiaries have increased due to the parlous film times. There are more people now who have to be helped to pay for medical, funeral, education and housing costs, so more money needs to be found.

Fundraising concerts are fine, but what would make a big difference would be a substantial increase in the Metro filmfest's annual subsidy to Mowelfund. If the filmfest's decision-makers refuse to see the light in this regard, they could be persuaded to do so if enough movie workers speak up with one voice.

The Film Academy of the Philippines should also more committedly see how it can help Mowelfund serve the needy members of our film community.

And, what about our stars and superstars, who earn millions of pesos per movies? Can't they donate, say 10 percent of their income to the "smaller" film people they profess to care for so much?

In other film climes, there are hospitals and retirement homes for sickly, jobless or retired film workers. Here, they're pretty much left to fend for themselves.

Surely, show biz people who are doing better than most can share part of their bounty with their less fortunate co-workers.

Lack of resources

It's also good that, despite its lack of resources, Mowelfund is working on providing housing and livelihood benefits. But, the organization needs everybody's help so the entire film community should rally to its support. Our thousands of film workers will be properly grateful.

If *you* want to help Mowelfund in any way, call (632) 727-1961 or 727-1915. Or deposit donations to PSBank Account No. 09211200024-9.

Misery

From page A3-2

over again? No.

If he comes across a sign that says "Waterfall and beautiful oasis 40 feet ahead," will it help if all he does is complain about the sun and ignore the sign? No. We may think him crazy for ignoring the solution that's practically in front of him.

In life, some issues may appear unclear because people tend to cling to miserable situations that befall them.

(To be concluded)

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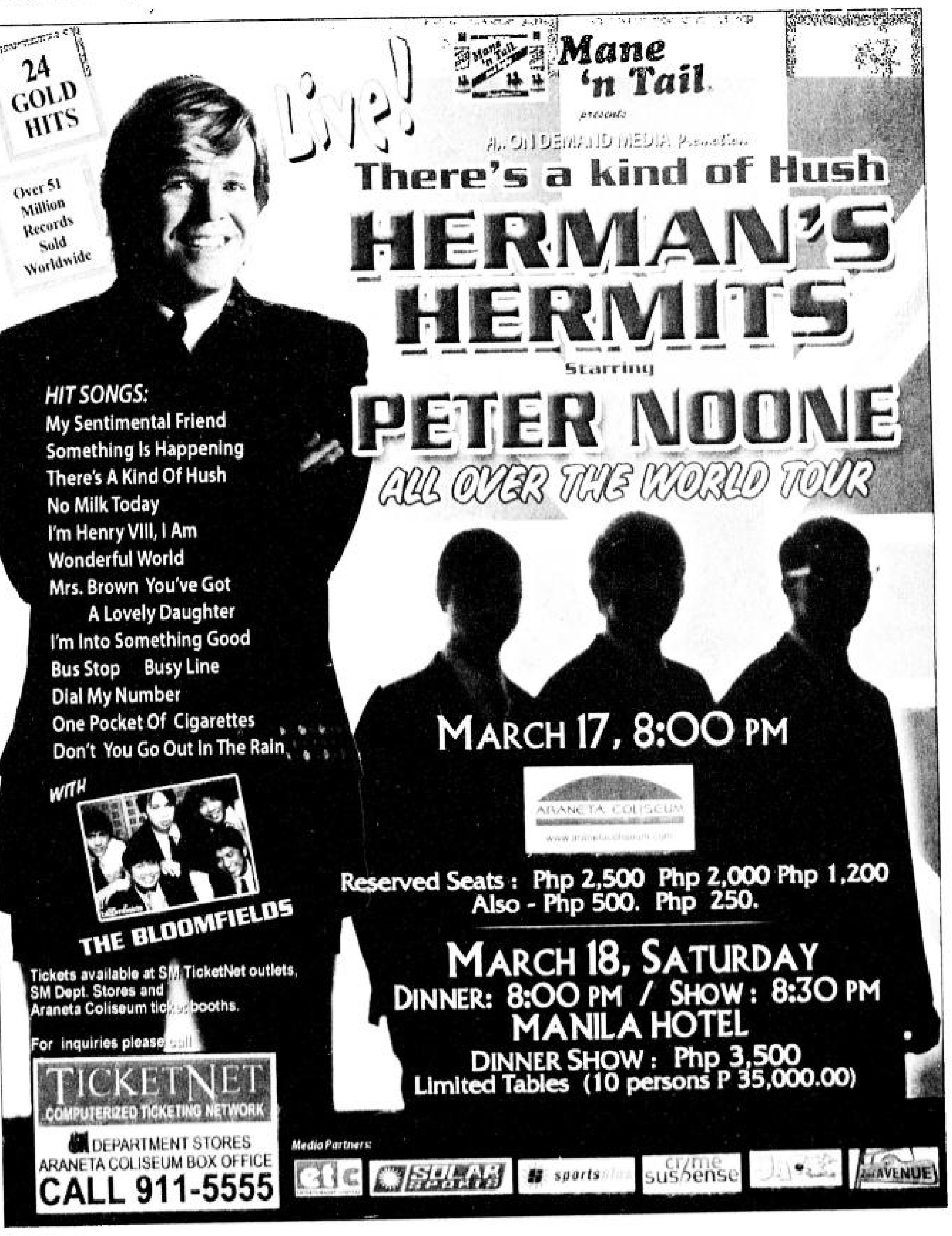
PAUL BETTANY
FIREWALL
EVERYTHING HE LOVES IS ABOUT TO BE USED AGAINST HIM.
WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
THEY'RE ALREADY INSIDE.



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STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

Woman power

EVELYN R. SINGSON was recently sworn in as the first woman president of the prestigious Management Association of the Philippines (MAP). Singson is a former awardee of the The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS).

Inaugural speech

In her inaugural speech, Singson credited the association's board of directors for having aptly chosen "Call to Action: Country Above Self" as their theme this year. She stated that love of country is not a luxury—it is a necessary ingredient for economic success.

She believes that MAP must take the initiative to make things happen.

* * *

Register now for the Mandy Navasero Summer Photoworkshop (April 8 to May 27), or check out the MN Batanes Photo Safari (April 12 to 15). Call 521-7866, or text 0917 801-2515.

Email mandy-navasero@yahoo.com.ph, or call 899-1767.

SINGSON. Love of country is necessary ingredient for economic success.

Forbidden

From page A3-2

homage to a universal theme: Love.

Lee, fusing his aptitude for visual poetry and mastery in character studies ("Sense and Sensibility," "The Ice Storm," "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"), coaxes career-best portrayals from his entire cast.

But, it's Ledger who delivers a soul-stirring performance that haunts, touches and illuminates—and deserves Oscar gold!

Wistful

He captures Ennis' wistful sense of quiet longing that's heart-rending and easy to relate to—like man's neverending quest for love, happiness, acceptance, contentment…

In the film's final scene, Ennis longingly stares at Jack's jacket, and at a postcard of Brokeback Mountain.

He knows now that Jack was right: "Brokeback got us good!" His tears well up as he thinks of the wonderful things that he could *and* should have asked for—and would have gotten: Love and elusive happiness.

Paltrow

From page A3-4

It's in its depiction of Catherine's conflicted love/hate relationship with her sister, Clare (Davis), that the film redeems itself.

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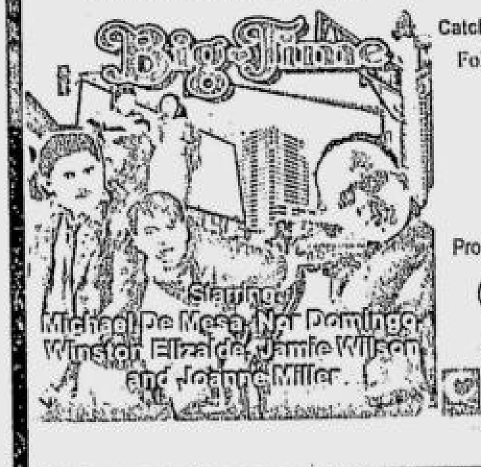

SA LAHAT NG GUSTONG SUMIKAT
SA LAHAT NG GUSTONG YUMAMAN
SA LAHAT NG GUSTONG MAGING

Michael De Mesa, Nor Domingo, Winston Elizalde, Jamie Wilson and Joanne Miller.

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Big Time

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SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

RED CARPET PREMIERE

GET A CLUE!
PINK PANTHER

PINK PANTHER
SM Bicutan Cinema 1
February 9, 2006, 7:30 pm

I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
SM Megamall Cinema 10
February 6, 2006, 7:00 pm

This RED CARPET PREMIERE is sponsored by Cheeky Curlz & PIPOL Fish Chips

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THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 WALK THE LINE
12:05FS / 12:35 MF / 03:20 / 06:05
08:20 LFS / 09:00 LMF / 11:15 END
2 DERAILED
11:30 FS / 11:55 MF / 02:10 / 04:25 / 06:40
08:30 LFS / 09:00 LMF / 11:16 END

MEGAMALL
1 DERAILED
10:30 FS / 10:45 MF / 01:00 / 03:15 / 05:30
07:45 / 09:35 LFS / 10:00 LMF / 11:50 END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 RESERVED
2 UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION
10:50 FS / 11:00 MF / 01:06 / 03:12 / 05:18 / 07:24
09:10 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:16 END
3 DERAILED
10:50 FS / 11:00 MF / 01:06 / 03:12 / 05:18 / 07:24
09:10 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:16 END

MANILA
6 BLOODRAYNE
10:30 FS / 12:20 MF / 02:10 / 04:00 / 05:50 / 07:40
09:18 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:05 END

movietime

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 DERAILED
2 WALK THE LINE
3 BLOODRAYNE
4 BIG TIME
5 ZATHURA
6 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
7 SAW 2
8 PROOF
9 THE MAID
10 UNDERWORLD 2
11 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
12 NARNIA

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 SAW 2
2 WALK THE LINE
3 BLOODRAYNE
4 DERAILED
5 UNDERWORLD 2
6 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
7 ZATHURA
8 BIG TIME
9 PROOF
10 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 DERAILED
3 SAW 2
4 UNDERWORLD 2

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 DERAILED
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 SAW 2
4 THE MAID

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 BLUE MOON
2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
3 NARNIA
4 SAW 2
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 DERAILED
7 UNDERWORLD 2
8 ZATHURA
9 BLOODRAYNE
10 THE MAID
11 KING KONG
12 BIG TIME

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 PROOF
3 DERAILED
4 BLOODRAYNE
5 ZATHURA
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
7 WALK THE LINE
8 SAW 2
9 BIG TIME
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 SAW 2
3 DERAILED
4 UNDERWORLD 2

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 ZATHURA
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 SAW 2
5 BLOODRAYNE
6 PROOF
7 WALK THE LINE
8 DERAILED

SM CITY MANILA
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 DERAILED
3 NARNIA
4 SAW 2
5 ZATHURA
6 UNDERWORLD 2
7 PROOF
8 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
9 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10 THE MAID
11 BIG TIME
12 WALK THE LINE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 DERAILED
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 SAW 2
5 PROOF
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 ZATHURA
2 DERAILED
3 NARNIA
4 THE MAID
5 RUMOR HAS IT
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 DERAILED
2 ZATHURA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 RUMOR HAS IT

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 ZATHURA
3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
4 DERAILED

SM CITY BACOOR
1 BIG TIME
2 ZATHURA
3 SAW 2
4 HALF LIGHT
5 UNDERWORLD 2
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
7 DERAILED
8 BLOODRAYNE

SM CITY MARILAO
1 DERAILED
2 THE MAID
3 ZATHURA
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 DERAILED
2 ZATHURA
3 RUMOR HAS IT
4 THE MAID

SM CITY LUCENA
1 ZATHURA
2 SAINT ANGE
3 LITTLE MANHATTAN
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 ZATHURA
3 DERAILED
4 RUMOR HAS IT

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 NARNIA
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 DERAILED
4 LITTLE MANHATTAN
5 NARNIA
6 THE MAID
7 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
8 ZATHURA

SM CITY ILOILO
1 ST. ANGE
2 RESERVED
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 ZATHURA
5 RUMOR HAS IT
6 DERAILED
7 RESERVED
8 THE MAN

SM CITY DAVAO
1 DERAILED
2 SAINT ANGE
3 ZATHURA
4 AN UNFINISHED LIFE
5 LITTLE MANHATTAN
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
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2 FAMILY STONE
3 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
4 ZATHURA

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1 ZATHURA • THX
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 BLOODRAYNE
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
3 DERAILED
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
4 SAW 2
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
5 WALK THE LINE
11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00
6 PROOF
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
7 RUMOR HAS IT
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8 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
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9 UNDERWORLD 2
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10 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
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ERMITA 538-7809 to 12

1 BLOODRAYNE 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
2 UNDERWORLD 2
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3 ZATHURA 12:00 2:00 4:00
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4 WALK THE LINE
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5 DERAILED
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6 PROOF
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7 SAW 2
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1 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
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2 DERAILED
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3 ZATHURA
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4 UNDERWORLD 2
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00
5 BLOODRAYNE
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00
7 SAW 2
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
8 PROOF
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
2 ZATHURA
3 HALF LIGHT
4 UNDERWORLD 2
5 SAW 2
6 DERAILED

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2 JUTOB
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4 ZATHURA

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3 SAINT ANGE
4 RUMOR HAS IT
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4 RUMOR HAS IT
5 THE MAID

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2 ZATHURA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 DERAILED
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6 SAW 2

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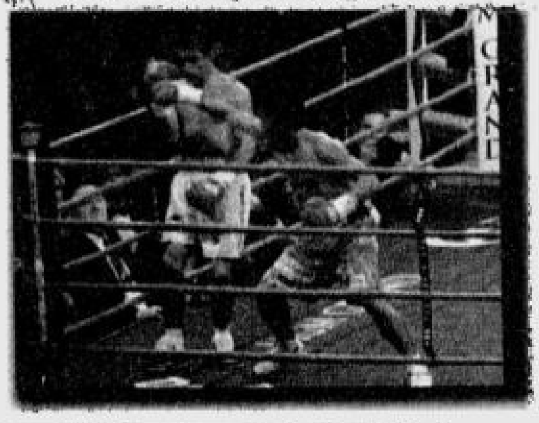

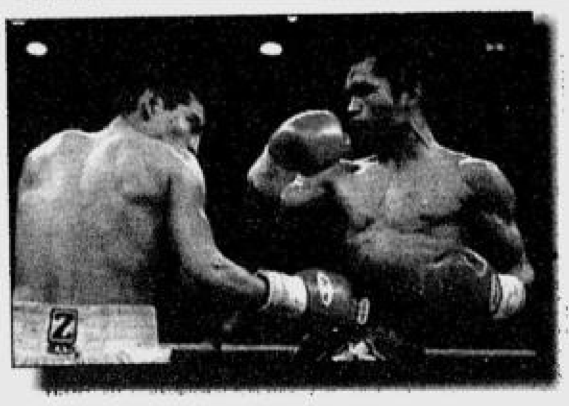

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Tommy Abuel is back as tri-media star

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN WE WERE BUSY ACTING IN plays for such ace directors as Rolando Tinio, Behn Cervantes, Zeneida Amador, Joey Gosiengfiao and Tony Espejo, we often shared the stage with Tommy Abuel.

He was the Iago to our Othello, we did Arbuzov's memorable "The Promise," and together with Boots Anson-Roa, we even performed in the Soviet Union.

Sensitive

Having acted in many plays with Tommy, we knew that he was one of our most sensitive and versatile actors. So, we made it a point to cast him in the first movie we directed (along with Laurice Guillen).

That launched Tommy's screen career, and he went on to appear in many films, including modern classics like Mike de Leon's "Itim" and Lino Brocka's "Maynila, Sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanag."

Some years ago, however, we noted that Tommy wasn't as visible on the TV and movie screens and onstage as he used to be. That saddened us, because we knew that he still had a lot to contribute to the performing scene.

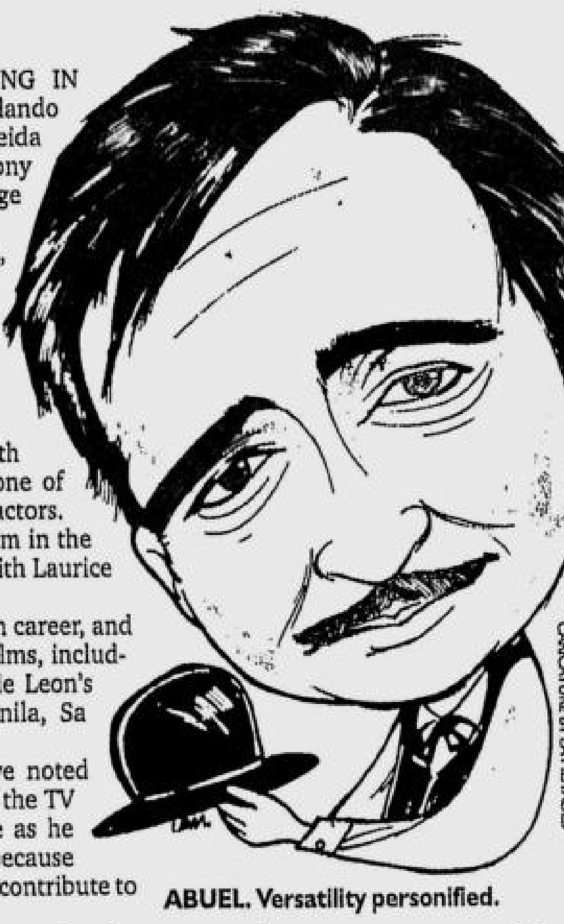
So, when we were tapped by noted sculptor Ramon Orlina to write and direct the musical, "Birhen ng Caysasay" at the CCP, we made it a point to cast Tommy in important roles in the production.

Touring show

Since it was conceptualized as a touring show, we asked Tommy to play a variety of roles. However, he didn't like changing looks and costumes, so we compressed those roles into one continuing character.

That adjustment took some doing, but it was worth it because, the minute Tommy started rehearsing for the show, the rest of the cast perked up. There was something special about the way he approached his role that excited them, and made them also come up with their best work.

Tommy's committed, imaginative and insightful performances was one reason why "Birhen ng Caysasay" was a success (it's scheduled for more repeats on Feb. 24 and 25 in Batangas).


CARICATURE BY LA MISTADES

ABUEL. Versatility personified.

Later last year, we wrote and directed "Be Not Afraid," a play for the CBCP on the life of Pope John Paul II, and we again asked Tommy to appear in the production.

This time around, he very pleasantly surprised us when he agreed to play multiple roles. He ended up portraying the pontiff's father, several prelates, and even the pontiff's assassin. Talk about versatility!

We cast Tommy in our shows because we wanted to help remind other directors, producers and the viewing public of his exceptional and well-honed talent. Thus, we are happy to see that, in recent months, Tommy has been cast in a TV series, and in a hit film ("Don't Give Up On Us," where he played Judy Ann Santos' dad). —Exactly what we wanted to happen!

We hope that Tommy will continue to be visible in stage plays, movies and TV shows this year. Simply put, we need gifted and experienced "tri-media" actors like him to raise the level of entertainment and the performing arts in these parts!

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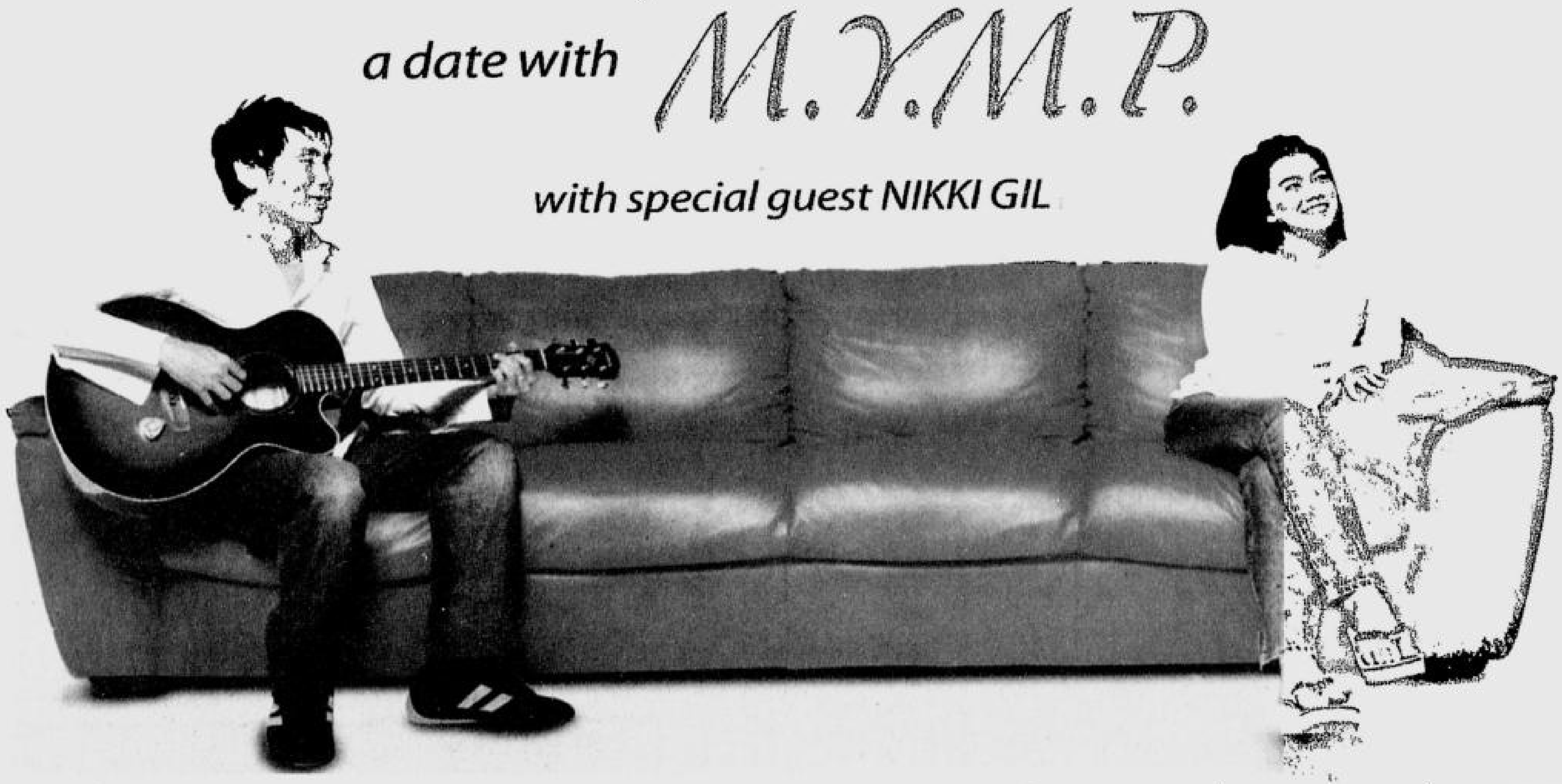

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More 'hot money' outflow posted in January

Foreigners take profit on gov't securities holdings

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS in local equities and debt paper posted a net outflow of $118.5 million in January, a sharp reversal of the $543.5 million in net portfolio inflow in the same month last year.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. admitted yesterday that while the local stock market was luring more foreign flows this year, there was profit-taking on peso-denominated government securities.

Last year, strong portfolio investments, also known as "hot money" due to their volatile nature, helped the peso appreciate by about 6 percent against the dollar and made the local currency Asia's best performer.

Investors benefited from double-digit returns on local bonds last year but there are expectations that this would be difficult to replicate in 2006. As such, local equities are seen to outperform fixed income securities.

"Investor sentiment in the stock market has generally been upbeat as reflected in a net inflow of $73.8 million from investments in PSE (Philippine Stock Exchange)-listed securities in January," Tetangco said.

The BSP chief said the much lower-than-programmed fiscal deficit in 2005 and the expected improvement in fiscal performance mainly from the full implementation of the expanded value-added tax reform package, the higher-than-expected economic growth posted in 2005, the low interest rates and favorable earnings of selected companies were providing investors sufficient reasons to be optimistic about the economy's prospects in 2006.

On the other hand, he noted that investments in peso-denominated government securities posted a net outflow of $139.2 million.

"Investors took the opportunity to cash in profits from the appreciation of the peso," Tetangco said. "There were (also) no new issues of Treasury notes, the instrument preferred by foreign portfolio investors, due to the liquid cash position of the Bureau of the Treasury."

Foreign portfolio investments registered with the BSP amounted to $228.9 million during the period, 80.5 percent of which went to PSE-listed securities while 19 percent was used to buy peso-denominated fixed-rate treasury notes.

"These investments were funded with inward remittances of

MORE/B2

Gov't cautions Congress on tax exemption hike

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE wants Congress to go slow on its plan to increase by 50 percent the personal exemptions of individuals from income tax, warning it would cost the government P11 billion in foregone taxes and derail efforts to revitalize the fiscal sector.

The DOF said granting tax relief to individual income earners would erode revenues from the recently implemented VAT Reform Law, which expanded the coverage of the value-added tax and raised its rate from 10 to 12 percent last Feb. 1.

"We deem the huge revenue losses from these bills (on increasing personal exemptions) would seriously drain the national coffers and negate our efforts toward achieving a balanced budget by 2008 at the earliest," the DOF said in a position paper signed by Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

The finance chief had said that the move to increase personal exemptions would only be practical if it would come with a twin measure designed to raise tax collection.

The DOF is pushing for the passage of the Simplified Net Income Tax System (SNITS), which fiscal authorities expect to increase tax collection from self-employed individuals by reducing the items deductible from their gross income.

Since the SNITS is expected to generate some revenues for the government, the DOF estimated that the foregone tax collection from the plan of Congress to increase personal exemption would only be P1.8 billion should it come with the SNITS. A P1.8-billion revenue loss would be affordable, the DOF said.

The finance department is thus proposing that Congress instead consolidate the increase in personal exemptions and the DOF-backed SNITS under one bill.

The bill on increasing personal exemptions approved by the House commiittee on ways and means seeks to increase the amount of exemption of individuals under the bracket of "single" to P30,000 from 20,000. This means that a taxpayer may deduct P30,000 from his or her gross income to determine the taxable income.

Taxpayers falling under the category of "head of family" will have their personal exemptions raised to P37,500 from P25,000, while those categorized as "married" will enjoy personal exemptions of 48,000 from the previous P32,000.

The bill likewise proposes that an additional exemption of P12,000 per dependent, from the current P8,000, may be deducted from an individual taxpayer's

GOV'T/B2

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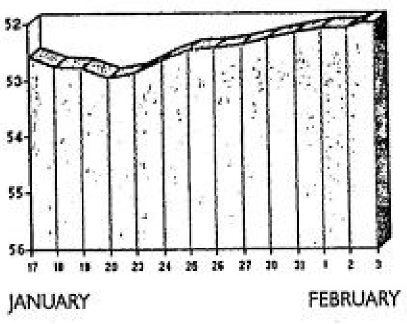


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 51.91 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 3, 2006

¥ 118.50 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 3, 2006

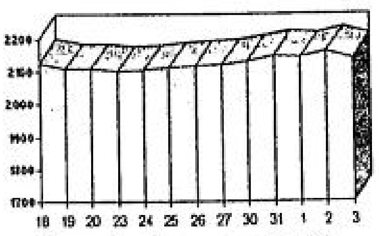
GOLD: $570.50-571.00

per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 2, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Shares close slightly lower

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE PRICES closed 0.96 percent lower yesterday due to a downturn on Wall Street and a court ruling that barred Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) from raising power tariffs, dealers said.

The Supreme Court on Thursday voided Meralco's June 2004 rate increase, saying the government failed to comply with the law before approving the tariff rate hike.

The composite index fell 20.66 points to 2,138.71 after trading between 2,134.28 and 2,159.56. Volume reached 2.42 billion shares worth P2.34 billion.

Losers outnumbered gainers 64 to 27, while 43 stocks ended unchanged.

The broader all-shares index plunged 18.21 points to 1,024.74.

"The market had gone up for the past seven of eight sessions and profit-taking was expected," said Oliver Plana of Asiasec Equities.

Meralco "A" fell 25 centavos to P13.75 while Meralco "B" retreated 75 centavos to P20.75.

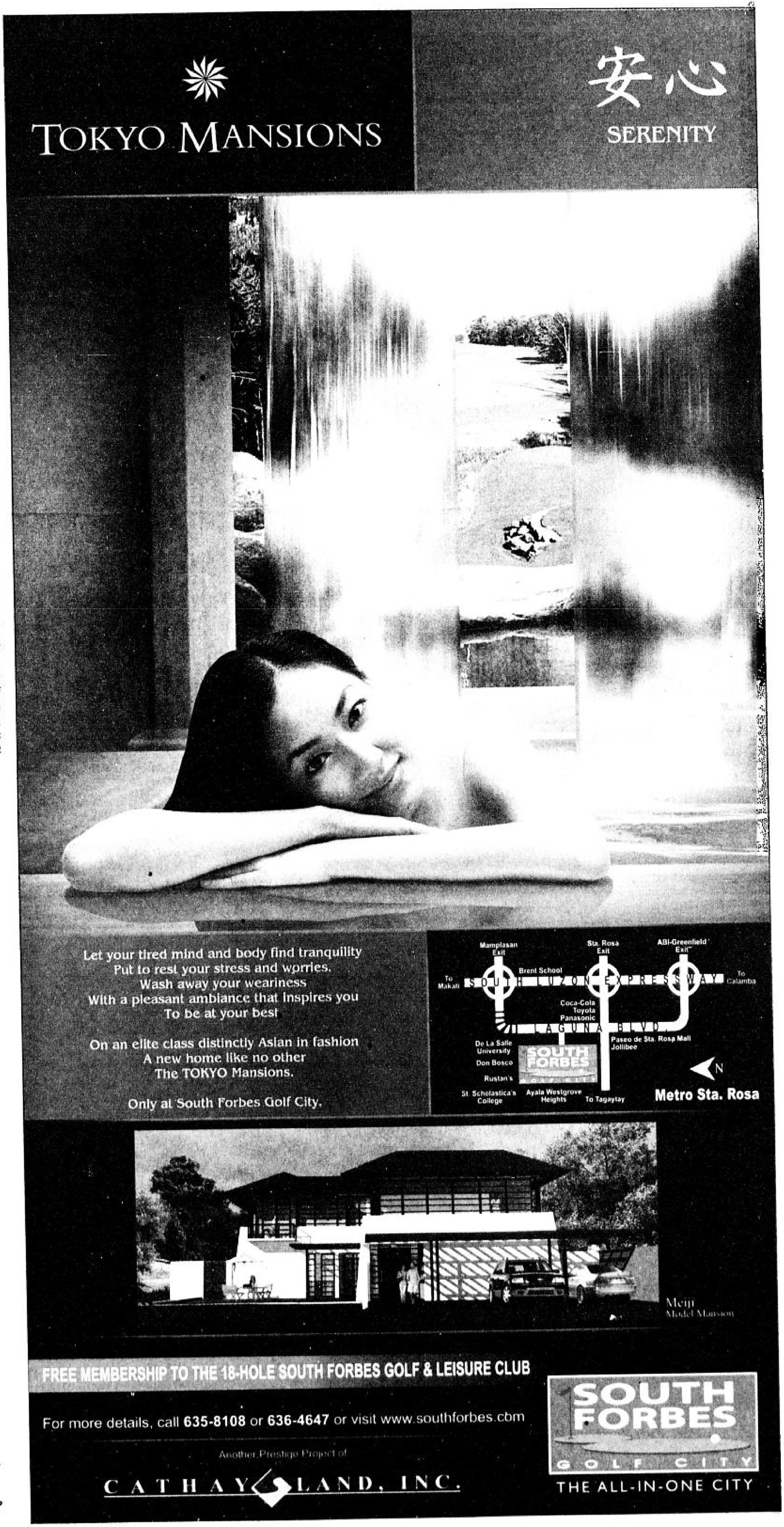
Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. led the decline, ending down P35 at P1,855 as investors took profits after the stock reached a record-high on Thursday.

Top-traded Banco de Oro fell a peso to P36.

Bank of the Philippine Islands retreated 50 centavos to P58.50 while Ayala Land was down 25 centavos to P11 after reaching its highest level in more than six years on Thursday.

San Miguel saw both its "A" and "B" shares remain unchanged at P63 and P85.50, respectively.

AFP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First Gen shares fully subscribed

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FIRST GEN CORP., THE COUNTRY's largest independent power producer, has raised P1.7 billion from its local offer, which will close on Feb. 6.

BDO Capital and Investment Corp. executive vice-president Eduardo Francisco said brokers, underwriters, as well as retail and corporate investors, subscribed to First Gen shares, which were offered starting Jan. 31.

First Gen is the holding firm of the power generation and energy-related businesses of the Lopez Group.

With the local offer coming to a close, First Gen is ready to list its shares on Feb. 10, backed up by the P8.5 billion raised from the international offering completed last week.

Out of the 180.9 million shares it offered, First Gen sold 80 percent or 144.73 million shares to foreign investors during an international roadshow completed last Jan. 26.

It allocated the remaining 20 percent or 36.18 million shares for local investors.

FinanceAsia reported that First Gen raised a below-target $162 million from its IPO after volatile global stock markets heightened uncertainties surrounding Philippine assets.

This forced bookrunners CLSA and UBS to lower First Gen's offer price to P47 a share and sell only the minimum amount of shares.

At that size and price, First Gen was about 1.6 times oversubscribed by international investors.

Demand, however, was not enough to cover a 15-percent "greenshoe option" or an option to issue additional shares and the sale of secondary shares by existing shareholders.

As a result, the Lopez-controlled company sold 180.9 million new shares, lower than the planned 219.9 million primary shares and 125 million secondary shares.

ALI looking at additional bond issue

PROPERTY GIANT AYALA LAND Inc. is considering the issuance of another P248 million in retail housing bonds should market feedback on its maiden bond issue be favorable, ALI president Jaime Ayala yesterday said.

In a press briefing, Ayala also said a possible second tranche would depend on whether the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) would approve the proposal.

ALI's board has approved the issuance of up to P500 million in exchangeable bonds.

ALI is set to issue the first tranche worth P252 million of its "Homestarter Bond" on Feb. 16, the first exchangeable bond in the country.

The "Homestarter Bond" is a an investment tool that aims to boost savings of retail investors. It can be exchanged for cash plus interest at the end of three years, or it can be used as down payment for property developed by ALI's subsidiaries.

The bonds will be issued monthly in a series over 36 months. A prospective bondholder can subscribe to a minimum P5,000 a series or equal to a total of P180,000 at the end of three years. The maximum purchase is P25,000 a series, or a total of P900,000.

The bonds will bear interest on its principal amount from the issue date at a fixed rate of 5 percent.

ALI has tapped BPI Capital Corp. as issue manager and underwriter for the bond offer.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

GONE WITH THE RAIN

Tobacco plantations in Candon, Ilocos Sur have been ravaged, not by storm, but by gentle rain that has been pouring incessantly over the region. Close to 1,600 hectares of tobacco were affected. Losses were pegged at over P100 million.

LEONCIO BALBIN JR., PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Raid and write

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ALRIGHT, ACCIDENTS HAPpen—even stupid accidents like that oil spill from the rented power barge of our favorite government corporation, Napocor.

Now the questions are, one, who were responsible for the disaster, and, two, who is going to pay for the clean-up of all that mess.

It was a disaster that the government brought upon the people of Antique. This time, the government did the public wrong! But who punishes the government?

Surely, this cute administration of Gloriaetta is investigating the whole thing, and as usual, it must be readying the cover-up.

As in the past, even if government people were found to have been negligent, nobody went to jail. And so, believe me, it will happen again. And again.

***

THUS we can only wonder about who really pays for it all. Ultimately, taxpayers will have to shoulder the bill, no matter what government outfit will be lucky enough (i.e. kickback) to get the clean-up job.

The so-called "accidental" oil spill, courtesy of Napocor, happened because its "power barge 106" overturned in the seas last month reportedly due to bad weather.

How stupid was that? Quick, somebody please tell those monkeys in Napocor that sea vessels and bad weather normally do not mix.

And so the Coast Guard already spent P7 million to start cleaning up the Napocor mess. The cleaning bills can reach close to a hundred million pesos.

But what we can never really quantify is the cost to the livelihood of the people in the disaster areas, not to mention the damage to the environment.

Initial estimates showed that the disaster could affect some 236 hectares of mangroves and 40 square kilometers of marine life. That could be your supper right there!

* * *

SINCE the whole thing was the lookout of our beloved Napocor, this same monster then should be liable for the compensation of the victims. Unfortunately, Napocor has no money. Its officials mismanaged the business. They also made a pile while doing it.

Now, if Napocor cannot pay for damages to the victims, maybe the Coast Guard can. Well, street children have more money than the Coast Guard.

Moreover, there is a big issue over Napocor's insurance claims in London. The British Marine of London is not paying up just yet.

Okay—in fairness to Napocor—no insurance company ever makes payments for claims without first questioning everything.

But the thing is, British Marine is pouncing Napocor precisely on the issue of that bad weather. In other words, Napocor may not get its due for the millions of premium that it sent to London over the years because of stupidity.

* * *

THEY say that when something goes wrong in the government, it's either due to stupidity or corruption. In Napocor it's both.

The wonder of it all is, Malacañang does not do anything about it. In fact, this cute administration of Gloriaetta was even quick to use Napocor to attack its political enemies such as the Lopez group. Why do you think this cute administration wants to take over Meralco?

And Malacañang is plotting the takeover, wanting to get a private company into government hands, although Congress decided four years ago, under the Epira law, that the government should get out of the power business.

The Epira even laid down a schedule for the privatization of Napocor. The law says that Napocor should sell 70 percent of its power plants by 2004.

Again, the target was 2004, meaning that everything should be done by then. Napocor only started selling its assets in—guess what?—2004. Last year, not a single asset was sold. And so two years later today after the Epira deadline, Napocor proudly claims before Congress that it has already sold all of 7 percent of its assets.

It's all fine, except that Sen. Joker Arroyo found out that even the 7-percent claim of Napocor was a big lie. Actually Napocor sold only 3 percent of the assets.

* * *

ON TOP of it all, taxpayers are paying for the P12-billion retirement package for Napocor executives as part of the privatization. Some 25 executives raided the retirement package. They each got P120 million. Then they appointed themselves as consultants of Napocor, drawing the same salaries as before the raid. Do you write the raid down as "plunder?" So do I. Only Malacañang does not.

ePLDT still evaluating Philweb price

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILWEB CORP., THE INTERNET gaming firm of former trade chief Roberto Ongpin, yesterday said that the entry of the technology unit of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has failed to materialize this week due to unfinished valuation.

The Internet gaming firm told the Philippine Stock Exchange on Jan. 28 that it expected to sign a memorandum of understanding with ePLDT "not later than the end of this week."

ePLDT, a wholly owned technology arm of the country's largest telco, is negotiating to buy 24 billion shares of Philweb equivalent to about 20 percent of the company. The PLDT subsidiary will be allotted three board seats upon acquisition.

Delays in the investment drove down the stock price of Philweb to 3 centavos apiece from 3.30 centavos the other day. At yesterday's closing price, 24 billion shares are worth P720 million.

PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan said the company would use Philweb's authority and expertise to allow Smart Communications Inc. to offer mobile gaming once the cellular phone carrier launches its third-generation, or 3G services.

Philweb has become a niche player in Internet gaming and has been licensed by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. for Internet sports betting and Internet casino.

Gov't cautions Congress on tax exemption hike

From page B1

gross income.

Aside from increasing the amounts of personal exemptions, the House bill likewise seeks to restructure the tax rates imposed on salaried individuals. From the current tax rates of between 5 and 32 percent, the bill wants the rates adjusted to between zero and 35 percent.

The bill also wants to trim the number of income tax brackets from the current seven to six: individuals earning P55,000 and below will be exempt from paying taxes; for those earning up to P100,000, the tax rate will be 26 percent of the amount in excess of P55,000; for those earning up to P250,000, the tax rate will be P11,700 plus 29 percent of the amount in excess of P100,000; for those generating P400,000, the corresponding tax rate will be P55,200 plus 31 percent of the amount in excess of 400,000; those earning up to P500,000, the applicable tax rate will be P101,700 plus 33 percent of the amount in excess of P400,000; and those earning more than half a million pesos, the tax rate will be P134,000 plus 35 percent of the amount in excess of P500,000.

More . . .

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foreign exchange converted into pesos through banks operating in the Philippines," Tetangco said.

By country of origin, 78 percent of new registered investments came from the United States, the United Kingdom and Singapore.

On the other hand, capital outflows were larger at $347.4 million, 53 percent of which was due to the unloading of government securities, 32 percent consisted of liquidated stocks and 15 percent represented peso deposit withdrawals. On a gross basis, gross portfolio investments represented only a third of the windfall in January last year while outflows were 2.5 times higher.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Feb. 3, 2006)

Stocks	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	37	37	35.5	36	16,528,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59	59.5	58.5	58.5	3,785,500
China Banking Corp.	610	610	605	605	1,010
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	62	62	61.5	62	13,100
International Exch. Bank	21	21	21	21	22,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	32.5	31	32.5	1,521,100
Philippine National Bank	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	15,700
Phil. Savings Bank	35.5	35.5	35.5	35.5	8,000
Security Bank Corp.	39	39	38	38	39,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	35.5	35.5	35	35	56,700
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	15,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	145	145	145	145	10,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2135	2135	2135	2135	370
Ivantage Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	11,290,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	47.5	47.5	46.5	47	485,400
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	14	13.75	13.75	65,700
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21	20.25	20.75	521,300
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	4,290,000
Petron Corp.	4.7	4.7	4.65	4.65	1,437,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	40,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	60,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.6	3.65	3.6	3.65	19,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.5	23.5	23	23	1,900
Jollibee Foods Corp.	37.5	37.5	37	37	425,200
RFM Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	130,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.68	1.72	1.68	1.72	127,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63	63	62	63	103,000
San Miguel Corp. B	85	85.5	84.5	85.5	69,500
Universal Robina Corp.	18.5	18.5	18.25	18.25	31,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.14	1.16	3,266,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	2,250,000
CHEMICALS					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3.95	3.95	3.95	3.95	6,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	50,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	170,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.7	0.7	220,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	18,900,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	5,700,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	5,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0095	0.0095	0.009	0.009	106,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.011	0.012	0.0095	0.01	20,000,000
Ayala Corp.	337.5	337.5	335	335	61,420
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	190,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	251,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	14,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.24	2.24	2.24	2.24	1,225,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.89	0.87	0.89	1,090,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.82	1.82	106,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	16,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.04	11,928,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.25	3.1	3.15	3,000,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	30,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	247,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc.	4.45	4.45	4.35	4.45	192,000
Keppel Holdings	1	1	1	1	10,000
Keppel Holdings B	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	3,900,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	200,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	2,300,000
SM Investments Corp.	233	233	228	228	26,920
South China Resources Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	6,600,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.145	0.155	0.13	0.135	8,900,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	11.25	11.25	11	11	11,704,600
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.33	0.33	120,000
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.04	1,317,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.205	2,500,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.56	1.56	1,054,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	30,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.21	0.21	1,810,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	3,660,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.52	1.54	5,393,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.205	3,200,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	400,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.46	2,756,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.34	9,440,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	600,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	150,000
Polar Property Holdings	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	40,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	81,000
SM Development Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8.2	8	8.2	5,292,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	1,130,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12.25	12.25	12	12	22,900
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.89	0.89	1,520,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	7650	765	755	755	40,280
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.35	3.35	277,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1890	1890	1855	1855	67,810
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	2,200,000
Ionics Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	3,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.055	0.055	0.0525	0.055	22,500,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	142,000
Philweb Corp.	0.032	0.03	0.026	0.03	1,723,500,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	120	12	12	12	179,300
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.71	520,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.26	1.3	1.26	1.38	65,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.7	12,305,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.43	0.46	0.37	0.37	12,840,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	73,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.2	1.28	32,000
Paxys Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.8	955,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.18	1.2	1.16	1.18	1,567,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.62	1.62	1.46	1.46	623,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.007	5,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6	6.2	6	6	669,000
Benguet Corp. A	7	7.1	7	7	25,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.52	1.52	1.5	1.5	156,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.23	0.22	0.22	9,140,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	5,390,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	97,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	105,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.74	1.9	1.74	1.84	57,083,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	2.14	2.16	2.02	2.04	20,477,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	25.5	26	25.5	26	395,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	120,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,100,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	1,070,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	70,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	73,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	12	12	12	12	158,800

CURRENCIES

February 3, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.826446	1.000000	52.0970
Japan	Yen	0.006974	0.008439	0.4396
United Kingdom	Pound	1.471570	1.780600	92.7639
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106547	0.128922	6.7164
Switzerland	Franc	0.643099	0.778150	40.5393
Canada	Dollar	0.722165	0.873820	45.5234
Singapore	Dollar	0.506121	0.612407	31.9046
Australia	Dollar	0.623969	0.755002	39.3333
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.192688	2.653153	138.2213
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220362	0.266638	13.8910
Brunei	Dollar	0.504577	0.610538	31.8072
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000088	0.000107	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020998	0.025407	1.3236
UAE	Dirham	0.225018	0.272272	14.1846
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.210000	63.0374
Argentina	Peso	0.269640	0.326264	16.9974
Brazil	Real	0.370023	0.447728	23.3253
Denmark	Kroner	0.133974	0.162109	8.4454
India	Rupee	0.018715	0.022645	1.1797
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220503	0.266809	13.8999
Mexico	New Peso	0.078755	0.095293	4.9645
New Zealand	Dollar	0.569492	0.689085	35.8993
Norway	Kroner	0.124390	0.150512	7.8412
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013816	0.016717	0.8709
South Africa	Rand	0.135913	0.164455	8.5676
Korea	Won	0.000850	0.001028	0.0536
Sweden	Kroner	0.107652	0.130259	6.7861
Syria	Pound	0.015921	0.019264	1.0036
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025879	0.031314	1.6314
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000385	0.000466	0.0243

Denmark pledges support to RP wind power plan

By Abigail L. Ho

THE GOVERNMENT OF DENmark has reiterated its support for wind power development in the country, with Danish firms expressing interest in participating in wind power projects here.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the Danish government had committed to make available to the Philippines the technical expertise of Danish companies engaged in wind power development.

He added that several Danish firms were keen on participating in wind energy projects here, including that of the Philippine National Oil Co. Energy Development Corp.

PNOC-EDC has a 120-megawatt (MW) Northern Luzon Wind Power Project (NLWPP) in Burgos, Ilocos Norte, which is divided into three phases.

The 5.9-billion yen (around P3 billion) first phase involves the construction of a 40-MW wind farm facility and a 42-kilometer transmission line.

Although six firms had already pre-qualified to undertake this phase as early as 2004, Lotilla said the actual bidding had yet to take place.

In July 2004, PNOC-EDC declared four joint ventures qualified to bid for the wind farm component of the project.

These included Itochu Corp. and Neg Micon, Sumitomo Corp. and GE Wind, Marubeni Corp. and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and, Kanematsu Corp. with Nordex.

Upon bagging the wind farm contract, the winning joint venture will construct a 40-MW wind farm and other related facilities on the site.

Apart from the NLWPP, PNOC-EDC is also eyeing the development of wind farms in several other sites, including Carrascal in Surigao del Sur, Burgos in Ilocos Norte and Boracay in Aklan.

₱15 a month helps family nutrition

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez
Contributor

COMMENTARY

WHEN MARTIAL LAW WAS LIFTED 25 years ago, Dr. Rene Espino came back to the Philippines.

This was after a four-year stay at Northern Carolina State University in the United States, where he pursued a doctorate in plant breeding and genetics.

That year, with a warrant for my arrest for fighting martial law lifted, and a one-way ticket, I also came home.

Little did I know that I would be working with him today on a project of great benefit to the poor.

This enables a poor family of six to have a nutritionally balanced mix of vegetables for only P15 for a whole month, or less than the price of one can of soft drinks.

Background

Though I already had graduate degrees from Yale and New York Universities, I was told I could contribute more to development by taking a one-year weekend UPLB diplomate course related to agriculture.

It was then I learned about UPLB's globally recognized Department of Horticulture and Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB), which several Asian countries had significantly benefited from.

Upon joining the Department of Agriculture in 2001, I was therefore very happy to learn that former director Espino, of UPLB's renowned IPB, was heading the DA's national high value commercial crops program.

The next year, when copra farm gate prices dropped from P9 a kilo to as low as P4 a kilo, Dr. Espino came to the rescue.

He coordinated with Dr. Renato Mabesa of UPLB's Department of Horticulture to deliver vegetable seeds at only P10 a packet to 100,000 coconut-farmer families.

These vegetable seeds were of great help in preventing hunger and providing the farmers' basic nutritional needs.

Last December 2004, while back in the private sector, Dr. Espino once again introduced this vegetable seed initiative in a Gawad Kalinga (GK) project in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City. This was sponsored by the Ateneo de Manila University GS '61, HS '65 and College '69 Class chaired by Atty. Rico Agcaoili.

Last week, Richard Inopia, the GK president for that chapter, asked for an expansion of this initiative.

His wife, Joji, said that in addition to getting vegetables at practically no cost, the women now spend their previous idle time productively and creatively.

For example, they use discarded materials, such as old bottles and plastic containers, as ornamental vases for their vegetables.

GK Head Tony Meloto witnessed Dr. Espino's demonstration at Bagong Silang.

Balanced nutrition plan

He suggested that this be considered for possible nationwide implementation in the appropriate GK sites where this food initiative can complement the GK housing component.

Rather than give these UPLB seed packets for free, the plan is to sell these for P15 each.

This way, the program will not need any donations and can therefore expand on its own.

A GK resident said: "I would rather spend P15 for these seeds rather than canned softdrinks. Instead of just salt or *toyo* (soy sauce) or *patis* (fish sauce) to go with my rice, I will now have these nutritious vegetables."

Nutrition will definitely improve.

Dr. Espino said: "For each packet, UPLB carefully selects a combination of vegetable seeds that provide the correct balance of vitamins, minerals and protein.

These include leafy vegetables such as *pechay* or upland *kangkong*, legumes such as *sitaw* (beans), and other vegetables such as *okra* and *talong* (eggplant).

The vitamins and minerals come from the leafy vegetables, while the protein come from the legumes.

Foundation seeds

The key factor in this project's success is the technology of producing foundation seeds.

The UPLB collects the best vegetable varieties from here and abroad.

The UPLB IPB then cross breeds selected varieties to produce new and better varieties.

From all these, it chooses those that are most suited to Philippine soil and climate.

These varieties are then multiplied, with the best becoming the foundation seeds that are found in each P15 vegetable packet.

Foundation seeds have a unique characteristic.

The successive generations from these seeds can retain their high quality for up to four generations.

For the untrained, it is enough to choose the best vegetable, get the seeds from this vegetable, and plant these to produce other equally high quality vegetables.

For example, from this small vegetable packet , you can produce 20 talong plants, each yielding five talongs for a total of 100 talongs.

You can get seeds from the best 20 talongs and be assured that the talongs from these seeds would be of equally high quality in the next generation.

Free technology forum

From 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. next Friday, Feb. 10, the Alyansa Agrikultura is sponsoring a forum on this topic led by Dr. Espino.

This is in line with Alyansa's focus on technology for 2006, where for each agriculture and fisheries sub-sector, a specific simple but high-impact technology that can be used by the small farmer and fisher will be promoted for free.

This forum will be at the Philippine Social Science Center Conference Room on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. For more information on this topic, please text or call Dr. Espino at 0928-2876644.

(The author is Agriwatch chair; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)

NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY

School of Civil & Environmental Engineering

Online Applications
For Graduate Programmes
By Coursework
Academic Year 2006-2007

Online application is open for the following graduate programmes by coursework for admission in academic year 2006-2007, commencing in August 2006:

1) M.Sc. (Civil Engineering)
2) M.Sc. (Environmental Engineering)
3) M.Sc. (Maritime Studies)
4) M.Sc. (Offshore Engineering)
5) M.Sc. (International Construction Management)
6) Graduate Diploma in Construction Management
 - *admit only part-time students*
7) Graduate Diploma in Airport Engineering
 - *admit only part-time students*

Applications are to be submitted electronically only via http://www.ntu.edu.sg/GradStudies/Coursework+Programmes/. Any other form of submission will not be considered.

Both full-time and part-time students are admitted to all programmes unless otherwise stated. Detailed information on the programmes is available at the above website. Enquiries on class schedule and programme curriculum should be directed to the respective Programme's Office.

Please refer to http://www.ntu.edu.sg/GradStudies/Coursework+Programmes/curriculum+enquiry.htm for the contact person (and email address) of each programme.

For further enquiries on administrative details, please email to admission_coursework@ntu.edu.sg. We regret that our office is unable to attend to telephone enquiries during the peak admission period.

Closing date for online application : 31 March 2006

Invitation NOT to bid.

- Only 10% Downpayment
- Balance up to 15 years
- Lowest Interest at 10% - Fixed for 10 years
- Amortization patterned to your needs

*Prices are subject to change without prior notice and offers are subject to management approval.

METRO MANILA

Res'l vacant lot - 4 Coolidge St., Greenhills West Subd., Brgy. Greenhills, San Juan, MM
1,050 sq. m. P31,920,000.00

Industrial lot - Pasig Light Industrial and Science Park, Santolan, Pasig City
7,736 sq. m. P73,492,000.00

Office space, condo unit - Unit 2001 to 2010 9 units @ the 20th Flr., Prestige Towers Condominium, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
63.13 sq. m. to 164.42 sq. m.
P2,210,000 to P5,749,000
9 parking slots (1 per unit)
P400,000.00 per slot

Res'l house and lot - 434 M.H. del Pilar St., Bo. Pinagbuhatan St., Pasig City
1,594 sq. m. P9,856,000.00

Land & bldg - 106 Cairo St., Pasig Greenpark Village, Brgy. Manggahan, Pasig City
207 sq. m. P4,070,000.00

Res'l w/ imprvt - 1148 Camaro St., Gatchalian Subd., Phase 5, Las Pinas City
508 sq. m. P5,631,304.52

Interior parcel, main parcel, second parcel - South Superhighway cor. T. Molina St., Alabang, Muntinlupa
1360 sq. m. P34,430,000.00

Site II res'l - Along a road right of way within Brgy. Alabang Ilaya, Muntinlupa
365 sq. m. P3,884,360.00

Office space condo, 5 units -
16th Flr., Unit A, B, I, J & K, IBM Plaza Bldg., Eastwood Cyberpark City,
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Quezon City

A-166.40 sq. m.	P9,984,000.00
B-118.20 sq. m.	P7,092,000.00
I-115.70 sq. m.	P6,942,000.00
J-107.20 sq. m.	P6,432,000.00
K-109.40 sq. m.	P6,564,000.00

Office space condo, whole 17th flr. - 17th Flr., IBM Plaza Bldg., Eastwood Cyberpark City, E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Quezon City
1,330 sq. m. P79,800,000.00

Condo unit - Unit 602, 6th Flr. Elizabeth Mansion Condo, 154 N. Domingo St. Brgy. Kaunlaran, Cubao, Quezon City
140 sq. m. P10,963,599.63

Res'l / comm'l house & lot -
#1 Pasture St., cor Edison and Marconi Sts., Makati City
1227 sq.m P30,000,000.00

LUZON

BULACAN/PAMPANGA

Res'l vacant lot - Barrio Mabiga, Mabalacat, Pampanga
1,715 sq. m. P1,200,000.00

Res'l house & lot - Barrio Mapalad, Arayat, Pampanga
240 sq. m. P382,000.00

Res'l w/ unfinished row houses -
Lot 1-1-4-D-1 & 2, Country Homes Subd., Brgy. Prado Siongco, Lubao, Pampanga
21,265 sq. m. P16,338,215.00

ANTIPOLO/RIZAL/LAGUNA

Res'l vacant lot - Town & Country, Brgy. Mayamot, Antipolo City

Lot 1, Block 5 928 sq. m.	P3,433,600.00
Lot 2, Block 5 1,235 sq. m.	P4,569,500.00
Lot 5, Block 6 1,183 sq. m.	P4,140,500.00

Res'l vacant lot - Lot 6, Blk. 7, Country Club, Brgy. Don Jose & Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
974 sq. m. P10,000,000.00

Res'l vacant lot - Lot 5, Blk. 10, Moon St., within ADB Subd., Bo. Del Remedio, San Pablo City, Laguna
339 sq. m. P610,200.00

CAVITE/TAGAYTAY/BATANGAS

Res'l townhouse - Unit 19, Highgrove Townhouse, Maharlika West, Tagaytay City
125 sq. m. P3,700,000.00
Res'l vacant lot - Interior Road, Magsaysay Ave., San Nicholas, Batangas
5,365 sq. m. P2,500,000.00

NUEVA ECIJA/BATAAN/TARLAC/ZAMBALES

Res'l / agricultural vacant lot -
Brgy. San Jacinto, San Manuel, Tarlac
Lot 2-B-2-C-20-A-1,
6,667 sq. m. P1,800,000.00
Lot 2-B-2-C-20-A-2,
6,667 sq. m. P1,800,000.00
Lot 2-B-2-C-20-A-3,
6,667 sq. m. P1,800,000.00

PANGASINAN/BAGUIO

Res'l w/ imprvt of no value - Quimson Subd., Road cor. Legarda Road, Baguio City
1006 sq. m. P26,156,000.00

LEGASPI CITY

Res'l vacant lot - Lot 2408, Bagumbayan, Oas, Albay
1,008 sq. m. P806,400.00

VISAYAS

LAPU-LAPU/MANDAUE/CEBU

Comm'l w/ imprvt - Lot 180-B-1-A & Lot 180-B-2-B, National Highway (M.C. Briones), Brgy. Maguikay, Mandaue City
434 sq. m. P13,950,000.00

Res'l vacant lot - L4629-X, L4629-Y & L4629-T, Sitio Libo, Mohon, Talisay, Cebu
1,029 sq. m. P473,340.00

Res'l vacant lot - L9 B1 Spring Village Subd., Brgy. Pakigne, Minglanilla, Cebu
770 sq. m. P1,232,000.00

BACOLOD/KABANKALAN/SILAY/LA CARLOTTA/VICTORIAS

Res'l vacant lot - Lots 11 & 12, Blk. 4 Liroville Subd., Brgy. Singcang, Bacolod City
818 sq. m. P6,994,000.00

Res'l vacant lot - Lot 1524-G-4-E-2-B-3-C-2, Araneta St., Brgy. Singcang Airport, Bacolod City
947 sq. m. P2,841,000.00

Res'l w/ imprvt - Lot 19 Blk. 14 Topaz St., City Heights Subd., Brgy. Taculing, Bacolod City
284 sq. m. P732,000.00

ILOILO

Res'l house & lot - L-150-A & B Poblacion, Barotac Viejo, Province of Iloilo
446 sq. m. P300,000.00

Res'l vacant lot - L6560 Brgy. Bansag, Lambunao, Iloilo
3,000 sq. m. P1,130,000.00

Res'l vacant lot - L4010-D-2 Jinaclacan, Jaro, Iloilo
250 sq. m. P400,000.00

MINDANAO

OZAMIS/DAVAO (MAIN, ILUSTRE, STA. ANA)

Res'l - Bo. Magnum, Tagum, Davao City L6 B3; L3, L7, L8 B11, L4 B12, L20 B14, L21 B16, L14 B18, L31 B19, L16 B1, L11 B7, L9 B10, L17 B14
296 to 313 sq. m. P129,000.00 to P1,650,000.00

GENERAL SANTOS/SOUTH COTOBATO

Res'l vacant lot - L1-D Cuaton Subd., Calumpang, General Santos City
1,311 sq. m. P823,000.00

Res'l vacant lot - Lot 4 Blk. 9 Carmela Homes Subd., Purok 2, Brgy Katangawan, General Santos City
224 sq. m. P220,100.00
Res'l w/ imprvt - Lot B-15-D-5-B Marang Street, Fernandez Subd., Brgy. Calumpang, General Santos City
482 sq. m. P884,000.00

Res'l vacant lot - Barrio Apupong, New Society, General Santos City

L3-C-5	321 sq. m.	P140,000.00
L3-C-6	321 sq. m.	P140,000.00
L3-C-7	321 sq. m.	P140,000.00
L3-L-2	351 sq. m.	P152,000.00
L3-M-2	351 sq. m.	P152,000.00
L3-M-3	351 sq. m.	P152,000.00

BUKIDNON (MARAMAG, VELENCIA)

Res'l w/ 1 storey bldg - Lot 1320-A & 1320-B-3-A-1, National Highway, Poblacion, Quezon, Bukidnon
1,242.00 sq. m. P2,464,000.00

Res'l w/ imprvt - Lot 8-B, North Poblacion, Maramag, Bukidnon
1,131 sq. m. P226,000.00

Res'l vacant lot - Carnation cor. Dama de Noche Sts., Purok 16-A, Poblacion, Valencia City, Bukidnon
600 sq. m. P900,000.00

Res'l / comm'l w/ imprvt -
Lot 56-B-1-I-3-B, Market Site, Brgy. Poblacion, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon
150 sq. m. P600,000.00

Res'l house and lot - Lot 2-B-19 Dama de Noche St. Poblacion, Juanilla Subd., Valencia Bukidnon
590 sq. m. P649,000.00

Res'l house and lot - Sitio Patag. Bagontaas, National Highway (Sayre), Valencia, Bukidnon
304 sq. m. P327,000.00

- Other property listings are available upon request

For inquiries, please call: Metro Manila/Mindanao: Tess Onda (830-0447) **Luzon/Visayas:** Dennis Alaoria (811-6647) **Trunkline:** 812-0000 locals 2292/2200/2368/2319/2384/2285
Fax: 8924268 **Email:** mtuason@bankcom.com.ph **Text:** BKCOM <pmg><your name><your landline><your e-mail address> to 2327 for Globe, or 0917-8902327 for non-Globe users
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Inner Wheel Clubs 40th national confab kicks off

THE INNER WHEEL CLUBS OF THE Philippines 40th National Conference kicked off yesterday at the Manila Hotel.

Composed of wives of Rotarians and mostly women leaders in their respective fields, with "selflessness in Friendship and Service to Humanity" as its mission, this annual gathering is holding almost a thousand members all over the country and reviews their past accomplishments and discuss future projects aimed at helping the government in their programs of poverty alleviation, education and health and nutrition.

National Conference chair and 2nd national vice president Vicky Magadia, who is overseeing this big event together with national president Raquel Sta. Ines, said that this two-day conference opens up with a photo exhibit highlighting the different projects of clubs in every district. Manila Mayor Lito Atienza welcomed all the delegates. The keynote speaker was successful businesswoman lawyer Loida Nicolas Lewis. The rest of the day was spent on business meetings, capped off by the "Ruby Night with the Stars" in the evening.

The second day continues with the business agenda, the sisterhood meetings and the pinning of hearts for the Inner Wheel Clubs Foundation. To end the 2-day conference will be the much-awaited Inter-District Fellowship Broadway presentation in the evening where talents from every district will be shown.

Fathers' Day at Southridge School

PAREF SCHOOL IS CALLING ON ALL alumni and friends to join this year's celebration of its traditional "Fathers' Day" on Feb. 4. This year's theme is "Competere", following Greco-Roman designs and spirit.

The whole day affair starts with the Mass of Thanksgiving at 10 a.m. A parade of all the students at 1 p.m. signals the beginning of the special program. Fun and challenging games of all the fathers and sons highlight the affair from 2 to 5:30 p.m. At 5:30 p.m., an exhibition game of basketball between alumni and the varsity team provides a respite for all the tired fathers. At 6 .p.m., soothing acoustic music will be provided by Red Clay, a project band that features popular singer Paolo Santos and Pido, among others. To cap the evening, a "Battle of the Bands" featuring the different high school bands will provide a fitting finale to the whole day's festivities.

This year's Fathers' Day is special because of the participation of alumni and the students themselves in the planning and execution of the whole project.

For more information, call the information office at 842-0506 local 146 or 0919-8099330.

Philam Plans soars amidst challenges

A RECENT INDUSTRY REPORT REvealed that Philam Plans Inc once more topped industry sales with an overall market share of 23.55 percent as of September 2005. Ranking first, Philam Plans pre-need sales figure bested other players in the industry, accumulating total new sales value of P3.76 billion from January to September 2005. Philam Plans likewise topped education plan sales with 35.9-percent market share or P1.7 billion.

The past year is regarded as one of the most trying and challenging years for the industry, yet Philam Plans continues to serve the needs of the market, despite an evident slowdown in industry sales.

Philam Plans attributes its ability to meet its commitments to foresight and prudence. Choosing to sell only fixed value plans since it started in 1989, Philam Plans has been spared from the financial issues other companies now face because of their having sold traditional open-ended-value plans. Today, only the fixed value pre-need plan is sustainable.

Philam Plans is a wholly owned subsidiary of Philamlife, the country's leading life insurance company. Philamlife is also the Philippine-based affiliate of the American International Group (AIG), the leading US-based global insurance and financial services organization.

Philam Plans' continued leadership in the market can be attributed to its comprehensive pre-need product portfolio, its management expertise and sound financial practices. "Being a multinational company ourselves because our parent firm, Philamlife, is a wholly owned subsidiary of the American International Group (AIG), we have to conform even to international standard, oftentimes putting us in a position where we have to comply with stricter standards than the local regulator" commented Philam Plans president and CEO Jesus G. Hofileña. "While difficult, this is actually more advantageous to safeguarding the interests of our planholders as they are assured their funds are much safer with Philam Plans", he added. Hofileña appealed to the public to keep their faith and patronage in pre-need. "There is no substitute to what preneed plans do best-providing a disciplined and assured way for Filipinos to save for unavoidable financial needs in the future. Allow our company to serve you", said the Philam Plans' CEO.

Many companies prosper during good times, but best companies are proven during difficult times. This statement could not be truer for Philam Plans, which has continued with its consistent performance and untainted record of 16 years of promises kept.

Universal Motors Corporation
2005 DEALER AWARDS
Universal Motors Corporation

UMC AWARDS MDC DEALER OF THE YEAR (0204NISSAN)

Universal Motors Corp (UMC) recently recognized Nissan Mantrade Development Corp (MDC) as its dealer of the year for having attained the highest consolidated overall performance in dealer vehicle sales, spare parts operations and customer satisfaction during the UMC 2005 Dealer Awards Night. Shown are UMC's SVP for marketing Elizabeth H. Lee (left) and SVP for finance Rodrigo T. Janeo (right) with MDC president Kurt Bachmann (second from left) and VP sales and marketing Herbert Tan.

JUANS HONORED BY NORTHWESTERN ALUMNI CLUB

Chicago-based Francisco and Isabel Juan were honored at a luncheon meeting by the Northwestern Alumni Club at Dusit Hotel. The couple reported on the Annual Leadership Conference at the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and urged local alumni to attend the 2006 schedule on a 'travel reimbursement' basis sponsored by the school. Shown are, front row, Cezar Yatco, Juan Collas Jr, the Juans, Olivia Villafuerte and Bernadine Sly. At the back are Augusto Gonzalez, Christopher Lim, Stephen Gan, club president David Valdes, Melchor Guerrero, Oscar Sevilla Jr, Bartolome Silayan Jr, and Taguig Councilor Aurelio Paul Bartolome.

Malayan Insurance reaffirms no.1 position

MALAYA INSURANCE COMPANY INC (MICO) recently obtained excellent financial ratings that further reaffirmed its dominant position in the non-life insurance industry.

Its strong and consistent performance within the last three years earned for Malayan Insurance Company Inc (Mico) a financial strength rating (FSB) of B++ (very good) and issuer credit rating (ICR) of "bbb" from AM Best Co.

AM Best, established in 1899, is the world's oldest and most authoritative insurance rating and information source.

The ratings recognize Mico's extensive reinsurance arrangements and reflect the company's consistent market leadership, strong risk-adjusted capitalization and stable stream of investment income.

Mico has established a solid position within the Philippines' non-life insurance market as a result of its 75 years of operating history. The company has maintained its market leadership in terms of gross premiums written for the last 35 years. Gross premiums grew by 20 percent to P3.9 billion ($70 million) in 2004 from P3.3 billion ($59 million) in 2003.

Mico is the flagship insurance arm of one of the country's biggest financial conglomerates Yuchengco Group of Companies (YGC).

Aside from maintaining its no.1 position for gross premiums written, Mico also emerged as the leading company in terms of premiums earned and paid up capital. It bested other non-life insurance companies when it generated P1.63 billion ($29.20 million) in premiums earned in 2004, a 52-percent increase over 2003's figure of P1.07 billion ($19.16 million).

Best's Capital Adequacy Ratio (BCAR), which measures capitalization on a risk-adjusted basis, demonstrates that Mico was strongly capitalized in 2004. Its net premium leverage ratio was maintained at a conservative level of 0.45 times. The reinsurance program is also supporting the company's capitalization, which is placed with diversified, high quality reinsurers.

World Cancer Day for children

THIS YEAR'S WORLD CANCER Day has been dedicated to childhood cancer by the International Union Against Cancer (UICC). UICC is the largest non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to the global fight against cancer. In commemoration of this day, the Philippine Alliance Against Childhood Cancer, a partnership between the Philippine Society of Pediatric Oncology (PSPO), Project: Brave Kids and Sanofi-Aventis joins the international community in celebrating the lives of all children with cancer. Under the slogan, "My Child Matters", several activities have been organized this year to increase awareness of early detection and to improve access to treatment of childhood cancer. To kick-off this year's activities, a painting session was held at the Philippine Children's Medical Center. More than 50 works of art were generated. Today, these paintings will be exhibited at the Gallery Hues in MC Home Depot, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. For more details on activities of the Philippine Alliance Against Childhood Cancer, e-mail Dr. Julius Lecciones, PSPO at juliuslecciones@gmail.com, Paul Perez, Project: Brave Kids projectbravekids@yahoo.com, or Cheryl Serrano, Sanofi-Aventis Philippines, at cheryl.serrano@sanofi-aventis.com.

BBDO Asia chair in Manila

THE NEW REGIONAL CHAIR AND CEO OF BBDO Asia Chris Thomas is visiting Manila Feb. 6 to 9 to discuss with local agency executives the network's business prospects in 2006. According to the Financial Times, BBDO is "on a roll" after winning "more than $1 billion in new accounts in 2005." Thomas joins BBDO Asia from London where he was head of Proximity Worldwide. Prior to that, he headed another multinational network in the United Kingdom. His appointment is a reflection of the importance of Asia to the network and he will be here in Manila this week to finalize the network's plans for the Philippines in the year ahead. In Manila, Thomas is expected to share the network's global directions with BBDO Guerrero Ortega (BBDO GO) officials led by chair David Guerrero and chief consultant Paul Roebuck. BBDO GO was recently named as among the world's 100 most awarded agencies by the prestigious Gunn Report.

Real estate brokers briefing

A REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER RECENTLY hosted a big gathering of real estate brokers in the country Jan. 30 to discuss ways on how they could fully gain from the bright prospects of the real estate industry in 2006. The event, sponsored by One Asia Development Corp, was held at the Grand Ballroom of the Dusit Hotel Nikko, Pasay Road, Makati. Highlight of the event was a real estate business briefing wherein One Asia presented industry prospects, profile of the real estate market, and a listing of impressive real estate projects. For more information about the event, and other upcoming events, call 687-5135 or 634-0513.

Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka
PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN NG PAGSASAKA AT PANGINGISDA
(National Agricultural and Fishery Council)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon
Tel. No. 9288741 to 65 local 510

Tender No.: FY 2005 US FOOD FOR PROGRESS PROGRAM-06/02
February 3, 2006

INVITATION TO BID

The National Agricultural and Fishery Council (NAFC) hereby invites sealed bids for the sale of 9,300 metric tons (+/- 1%) at Seller's option of food wheat with estimated time of arrival at the Philippine port approximately March 18-22, 2006 under the US Food for Progress Program.

Interested bidders must have a license to operate from any government issuing agency as food manufacturer, food distributor, importer or trader.

Bid documents are available from NAFC BAC Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee amounting to One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

The floor price is Php 11,395.00/MT C & F.

Fully completed sealed bids should be submitted not later than 9:00 a.m. on February 7, 2006 at the NAFC Executive Conference Room. Bids received after the scheduled time will not be accepted/entertained and will be returned unopened. Opening of bids will be at 9:15 a.m.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Paz Ventic or Ms. Peachy Agustin at tel. nos. 929-8234 and 920-3992.

(Sgd.) ATTY. BERNIE G. FONDEVILLA
Executive Director

(PDI - Feb. 4 & 5, 2006)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, the recognized leader in the newspaper industry with its balanced news and fearless views is committed to helping our trade partners achieve its business goals and serving the community via generation of employment.

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to work for our Distributor Partner in the areas of Pampanga, Bataan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and Zambales.

JOB DESCRIPTION:
✓ Will handle a sub-distributor partner to grow the business.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduates from the localities,
- Highly motivated, Aggressive; Hardworking;
- Must possess excellent oral and written communication skills both in English and Filipino;
- Preferably Male, willing to work on a graveyard shift, fast-paced, dynamic and flexible environment.

☐ Background in sales is not necessary, but a plus.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
to handle the needs of our SUB-DISTRIBUTORS
✓ Applicants must be a resident of Pampanga

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Female,
- College graduates;
- Must have a pleasing personality;
- Highly motivated; Aggressive; Hardworking;
- Must possess excellent oral and written communication skills both in English and Filipino;
- Background in customer service is a plus;
- Computer Literate

Send your *Resumé* to:
GQY Distribution Group Inc.
Dolores Homesite Extension
(near Jun-Jun's Bibingka Rest., McArthur Highway)
City of San Fernando Pampanga
or call/fax (045) 961-4048
(For Business Dev't Supervisors applicants, please look for
Mr. Mar Manabat or
Mr. Joss Yap or can email your resumé
to jessy@mail.imet.net.ph or gqydistribution.com.ph) and
(For Customer Service Representative applicants,
please look for Lynn Marcelo)

UN DP

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Construction of the Maharlika Trade Center in Taguig City
under the Project "Support to the Development of Pilot Muslim Communities (SDPMC) Project"

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would like to invite local and international construction companies / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Construction of the Maharlika Trade Center for the "Support to the Development of Pilot Muslim Communities (SDPMC) Project".

The project aims to aid in the development of selected Muslim and poor communities in the Philippines. One of the components of the project is the construction of the Maharlika Trade Center in Taguig City. The trade center is envisioned to be a multi-component Muslim Center that will showcase Muslim culture and arts and serve as the central market for Muslim products in Metro Manila. It aims to stimulate investment and generate employment opportunities in Maharlika Village and nearby communities.

Bidding Documents (Requirements for Eligibility, Instructions to Bidders, Terms of Reference and Standard Conditions of Contract) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of US Dollars Two Hundred (USD 200) for international firms and Philippine Pesos Ten Thousand (PhP 10,000.00) from the following address:

Development Support Services Center
United Nations Development Programme
30th Floor Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 901 0273 / 901 0272
Fax No. (632) 901 0200

International suppliers are encouraged to appoint and authorize Philippine-based counterparts to secure the bidding documents and submit proposals for and in their behalf.

The abovementioned Bidding Documents will be released to all interested parties strictly from February 7 to February 24, 2006. The Bidding Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, bid opening dates, and other schedules and requirements.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP based on UNDP criteria. UNDP assumes no obligation or responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made for this Contract.

(Sgd) ETHELIND B. CAPUNO
Manager, DSSC

(PDI--Feb. 4 & 6, 2006)

SCIENCE/HEALTH
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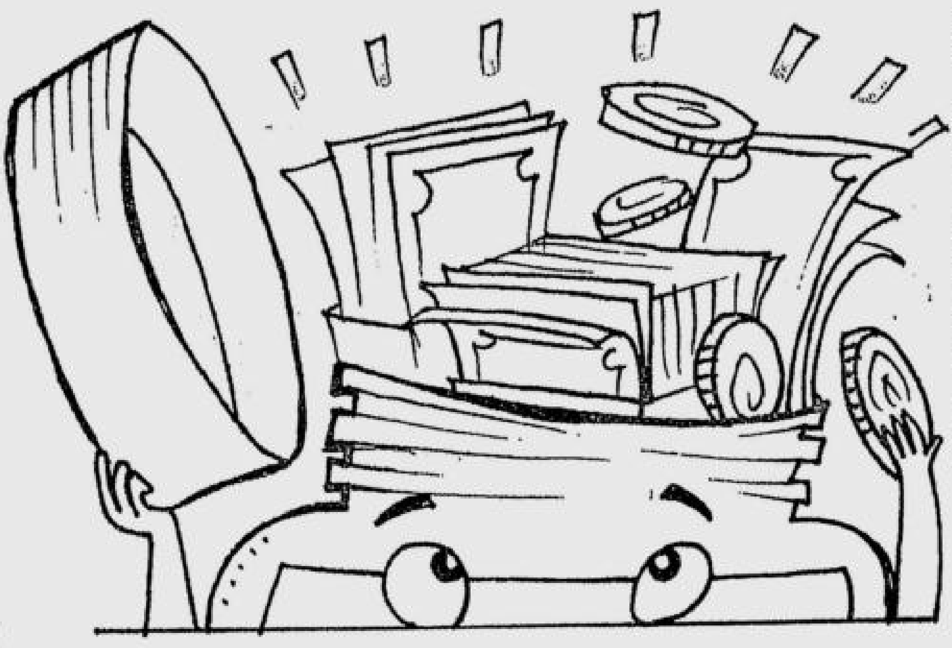
Intensifying research to fight diseases

By Charles E. Buban



THE WAR AGAINST THE world's most serious medical problems has some determined soldiers: governments, academe and most biotechnology companies and pharmaceutical firms that are investing more and more resources toward finding treatments for these diseases.

Discovering and developing new medicines to deal with cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular and infectious diseases is an expensive endeavor. In the United States alone, total spending has doubled in the past decade to nearly $95 billion a year, according to a recent Journal of the American Medical Association report.

"Research and development [R&D] plays a vital role in the commercial development of a [pharmaceutical] company's new products," said Dr. Anthony Leachon, Pfizer Philippines medical and regulatory affairs director.

He said that in 2005, Pfizer invested about $7.6 billion in R&D. The company is also investing more than $500 million over six years to increase its internal compound library to three million screenable compounds.

$800M for 1 drug

"These investments are necessary because the average cost to develop a new prescription medicine is $800 million and the trials to test for the medicine's safety and efficacy take between 10 years and 15 years to complete," Leachon said.

Leachon said pharmaceutical companies like Pfizer must continue finding new medicines that will improve the lives of people worldwide.

"R&D plays a big role in dealing with the world's serious health problems, such as infections and diseases. This is why big pharmaceutical companies like Pfizer are also involved in research collaborations around the world, working with partners at every stage of the R&D process—from exploratory discovery research to late-stage drug candidate development," said Leachon.

20 drugs in 5 years

Leachon said Pfizer was on track in achieving its goal of submitting 20 new drugs applications (NDAs) within the five-year period ending this year.

An NDA is a request for authorization from the US Food and Drug Administration to market a new drug product.

"Pfizer's pipeline includes advanced candidates in major areas of unmet medical need, including those for treating central nervous system disorders, cardiovascular disease, oncology, metabolic diseases, infectious diseases, ophthalmology, inflammation and respiratory disease," he said.

Among these products already available locally are pregabalin (Lyrica) for neuropathic pain and as an adjunctive therapy for partial epileptic seizures, indiplon for insomnia, pegaptanib sodium injection (Macugen) for age-related macular degeneration (a leading cause of blindness in the elderly) and azithromycin prolonged release (ZMax) for bacterial infections.

Other products also available are olmesartan (Olmetec) for high blood pressure, celecoxib capsules (Celebrex 400) for acute pain and atorvastatin calcium/amlodipine besylate (Envacar), a combination of high blood pressure medicine Norvasc and cholesterol lowering medicine Lipitor.

Leachon said the company is now in the advanced development of 12 other compounds including an inhaled version of injectable insulin used by diabetic patients and a drug for the treatment of gastrointestinal stromal tumors and renal cell carcinoma.

Math: nature or nurture?

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

READER CARLO GREGORIO [ctgregorio@yahoo.com] writes:

I am a 33-year-old father of three, and I am writing to you because I believe you can help me with my problem. I hope you can point me to the right direction or even just enlighten me from whatever misconceptions I may have.

My problem concerns math, more specifically, whether it is one's "nature or nurture" that determines proficiency, or lack of, in the mathematics field.

I do not know why I can't seem to have "a head for numbers" as they say, although I come from a family of skillful engineers and analytical problem-solvers.

Barely passing mark

I love the logic of math, but math has no love for me. It would take a tremendous amount of explaining to me, for example, why the Pythagorean formula is the way it is, or that $x+1=0$.

Every time I take an evaluative exam or test, I invariably just scrape out a passing mark in the math sections but do brilliantly in the others. Why is that? Am I not "built for it?"

Character trait

Is math dexterity a character trait found in some but not in others, just as one can have curly hair or brown eyes instead of straight or black?

If not, then why does it happen that when a professor lectures on say, the quadratic equation, some will get it faster than others and some will not get it at all, try as they may with all their strength? Or that in a mixed class of Filipinos and Chinese or Koreans, the latter seem to grasp math?

You may wonder why I write only now. It's because my daughters are, to my horror, showing signs that they have inherited my ineptness in math, and I do not want them to go through what I did. They are as bright as I in nonmathematical subjects. I want them to fare better in math than I did while it is still early.

Not genetic

First, thank you for your support, and I am glad that you read this column even if math is your waterloo. You must have read one of my previous articles that math ability is not genetic; the reasons East Asians seem to do better are cultural and linguistic (Confucian ethic, abstract characters) rather than inherited. So no, your daughters did not inherit their math phobia from you. However, they may be influenced if you inadvertently keep on telling them that math is your worst subject.

Second, math is neutral. Unlike human beings, it can neither like nor dislike anyone. Learning math is not really all that much different from learning other languages (many people also do not understand Shakespeare at first reading, the same way that some people cannot make sense of a quadratic equation).

Honing one's ability

People have different abilities. However, this does not mean that math ability cannot be honed. I have discussed various strategies; you may want to refer to my book "Eureka!" for some tips. There are also ways to help children do well in math (and in school); please refer to my book "Helping Our Children Do Well in School" (co-authored with Maribel Dionisio). In that study, we found that parents were still the best tutors for their kids.

However anxious you may feel about tutoring your kids in math, you must realize that this is an opportunity for you to understand the subject fully. We are not talking calculus here, and I am sure you have sufficient resources to tackle arithmetic. They say that teaching is learning twice, and as a tutor myself to my 7-year-old, I agree.

Pythagorean theorem

By the way, regarding the Pythagorean theorem, draw any right triangle and with a ruler, physically measure the sides. Plug the numbers into the formula. Great, huh? Also, a positive number added to another positive number can never be zero. But a positive and a negative number can cancel each other out.

Practice is key to math ability, and I believe if your daughters understand the basics and practice regularly, they should fare well. Good luck and God bless you, too.

Plants gone bad

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

IN THE LATE 1700S, BRITISH chemist Joseph Priestley discovered oxygen through a series of experiments involving bell jars, mice and plants. He found that when a mouse was placed alone in a sealed jar, it passed out after several minutes. But when the mouse was placed in the jar with a plant, it was conscious for a much longer period of time. Priestley inferred that the plant must contribute a gas (later named oxygen) that was not otherwise present in the sealed container.

Now pretend that the Earth is the sealed bell jar and the humans who emit carbon dioxide are the mice. As in the smaller scale experiment, the carbon dioxide emitted by humans and their machines are absorbed by the plants for photosynthesis, and the plants reciprocate by giving off oxygen to keep the humans alive.

This is why for decades people have decried the destruction of forests all over the world. Without plants to convert the CO^2 into O^2 quickly, mankind would not be able to survive for long on this planet without having to carry oxygen tanks everywhere.

In short, more trees are good for the environment.

Methane from plants

But what if that wasn't true?

In the Jan. 12 issue of the journal Nature, geochemist Franck Keppler and his colleagues from the Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics in Germany write about a hitherto unforeseen source of methane: plants.

Methane was long believed to be produced solely in environments that did not contain oxygen. Apparently that wasn't the case. The process by which methane can be produced under toxic conditions simply hadn't been identified before.

Keppler et al. said "significant methane emissions from bother intact plants and detached leaves were observed during…experiments in the laboratory and in the field."

Their use of the term "significant" may raise eyebrows: by their calculations, plants alone produce 10 percent to 30 percent of the annual natural methane emissions worldwide, equivalent to approximately 70 Teragrams to 240 Teragrams (1,015 g), or 60 million to 240 million tons of methane.

In a controlled environment test, a gram of dried leaves, for example, was found to give off up to 3 nanograms (ng) of methane per hour in 30-degree Celsius conditions. The area's humidity wasn't measured, so it's hard to tell if that's how much methane is being emitted right now from the fallen leaves strewn over the streets. Living plants can emit nearly 400 ng of methane per hour.

A nanogram is a billionth of a gram. Imagine how many plants would be needed to emit the several hundred million tons the researchers are suggesting.

Keppler et al. found that the methane emissions doubled for every 10-degree increase in temperature up to 70 degrees Celsius, and that the emissions tripled when the plants were in sunlight.

Mixed reactions

Reaction from the scientific community over the news is mixed. Some wonder if the results are valid; others are relieved to finally find an explanation for the "extra" methane they hadn't been able to account for previously; and others worry that by missing the fact that methane is produced by plants, other important data about the greenhouse effect may still be waiting to be discovered.

The researchers note that by discovering a new source of methane, further reductions in the carbon emissions allowed from manmade sources would be necessary to maintain the current "acceptable" levels.

Certainly, increasing what Keppler et all. call the "global methane budget" to accommodate the new source would be a step back and away from all the plans and proposals that involve re-greening the world.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

Go red for women

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

MANY WOMEN STILL HAVE THE erroneous notion that only men die from heart attacks and strokes. These cardiovascular complications, some think, are a rarity in women.

The incidence of cardiovascular disease may be significantly less in younger women, but after menopause, women are just as vulnerable as men to serious, disabling or even fatal heart attacks and strokes.

Dr. Esperanza Cabral laments the lack of consciousness of postmenopausal women concerning their own heart health.

Dr. Cabral is a former president of the Philippine Heart Association and Philippine Society of Hypertension (PSH) and the current chair of the Council for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention In Women.

Leading causes of death

Only a few realize that heart disease and stroke are now the leading causes of death and disability among women in the Philippines.

Infectious diseases, parasitic diseases and nutritional deficiencies are pressing health problems, but the incidences of heart disease and stroke have increased significantly in the last three decades.

"They are our most important health burden today, affecting men and women equally," says Dr. Cabral.

Wear Red Day

In the United States, the American Heart Association has organized the "Go Red For Women," a nationwide movement aimed at generating more awareness of about the No. 1 killer of women and of men worldwide.

Yesterday was their "National Wear Red Day," when all supporters of the movement wore anything red.

The movement hopes to inspire women not only to take good care of their men's hearts, but to take charge of their own heart health as well.

Lack of focus

Dr. Cabral says we still lack focus on heart disease and stroke in women and our national capacity to respond to the cardiovascular epidemic in both men and women has been woefully inadequate.

"It is important to deal with these scourges and remember that there are nearly 50,000 women who die each year from heart disease and stroke," she says.

Smoking, exercise

About 12 percent of adult women smoke and the numbers are rising. Women are starting to smoke at an earlier age, too.

Tobacco manufacturers should state in their ads that tobacco use is more dangerous for women than for men, with up to three times higher risk of heart attacks for women who smoke.

Women also have less time for exercise and you only have to watch people leisurely walking in the malls to conclude that we have an increasing trend of obesity in the country.

Other risk factors

The other major risk factors that account for the significant increase in heart disease among Filipino women are high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol and lack of physical activity.

Dr. Cabral says there are numerous socioeconomic barriers for women in getting treatment for heart disease. These include low socioeconomic status, lack of access to healthcare, lack of health insurance, lack of access to healthy food, lack of resources for sports and social isolation.

Vested interests

Dr. Cabral is right when she stresses that turning the tide will require much more than a focus on individual responsibility and the notion that these conditions are caused by lifestyle totally under the control of individuals.

It will require a recognition that commercial interests are largely responsible for unhealthy diets, tobacco smoking and physical inactivity and we should not fall prey to these vested interests.

Preventing cardiovascular disease in women is the subject of Dr. Cabral's lecture during the 11th joint annual convention of the PSH and Philippine Lipid Society on Feb. 9-11 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

For details, call the secretariat at 631-7970 or 687-7073.

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For further information, please call Mr. Romy S. Arquisola or Mr. Alfredo Q. Daluz at Tel. Nos. 852-96-84, 514-4229, 514-4234 and 514-4236.

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AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP BR of 2230 M. Roxas St. Sta Ana Manila Auction Sale on Feb. 13, 2006, Sat. at 2.30 in the afternoon. Respectively. Sept. 15 - Oct. 13, 2005 SONS of J. LANUZA, Auctioneer. (PDI February 04, 2006)

MARA PAWNSHOP
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(PDI February 04, 2006)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late GEORGE ANGELO G. PADOLINA has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs Elizabeth, George John & Joshua John, all surnamed Padolina under Doc#476, Page#97, Book#XXXII, Series of 2006 before Atty. Benjamin Mata of Makati City.
(PDI-Jan. 28, Feb. 4 & 11, 206)

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Resins Incorporated stock certificate no. NV 1003 for 1,355 shares issued to Carlos S. Rufino was reported lost. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI - Feb. 04, 11 & 18, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that Alien Certificate with #E157599 on August 6, 1998 & Immigrant Certificate of Residence w/ #326867 of Maria Regina Chee Udasco has been reported lost.
(PDI-Jan. 21, 28 & Feb. 4, 2006)

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NOTICE OF DECREASE OF AUTHORIZED CAPITAL STOCK UNILEVER RFM ICE CREAM, INC.

Notice is hereby given to the public that Unilever RFM Ice Cream, Inc., with Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration No. A199902956, incorporated on 26 February 1999, will file with the SEC a Certificate of Amendment of its Articles of Incorporation decreasing its authorized capital stock with return of capital. The decrease of authorized capital stock is in accordance with the resolution of the Board of Directors dated 15 November 2005 duly approved by its stockholders representing at least two-thirds (2/3) of its outstanding capital stock on 15 November 2005.

Any person who may have a claim against said Corporation may present the same to the undersigned at the Law Firm of R.V. Domingo & Associates, Executive Offices, 7th Floor, The Valero Tower, 122 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City, Metro Manila.

This announcement serves as notice to all parties concerned of the said Company.

DANILO L. CRUZ
Corporate Secretary
Unilever RFM Ice Cream, Inc.

(PDI--Feb. 4, 2006)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP (492-06-001)

USAID/PHILIPPINES is soliciting proposals from firms who qualify through experience to provide up to two (2) years of **janitorial and housekeeping services** to USAID/ Philippines. The contractor shall provide tools of trade, equipment and furnish direct labor personnel in the performance of required services. Work will be monitored by USAID/ Philippines. The Contractor will be paid at fixed monthly rates as appropriate remuneration for services rendered by qualified personnel.

Contract Services are expected to begin on or about May 1, 2006 and end April 30, 2008 with options to renew the contract. A USAID direct contract will be awarded.

Detailed information about this solicitation is contained in Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 492-06-001 which may be obtained starting January 30, 2006 from the Office of Regional Procurement, USAID/Philippines, 8F PNB Financial Center, Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, Pasay City.

(PDI – January 29, February 4 & 5, 2006)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP (492-06-004)

USAID/PHILIPPINES is soliciting proposals from firms who qualify through experience to provide up to two (2) years of **residential and warehousing services** to USAID/Philippines. The contractor shall provide tools of trade, equipment and furnish direct labor personnel in the performance of required services. Work will be monitored by USAID/Philippines. The Contractor will be paid at fixed monthly rates as appropriate remuneration for services rendered by qualified personnel.

Contract Services are expected to begin on or about May 1, 2006 and end April 30, 2008 with options to renew the contract. A USAID direct contract will be awarded.

Detailed information about this solicitation is contained in Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 492-06-004 which may be obtained starting January 30, 2006 from the Office of Regional Procurement, USAID/Philippines, 8F PNB Financial Center, Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, Pasay City.

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Our Dearly Beloved

COSME GO KING

now rests in the infinite warmth
and embrace of our Lord.
He joined our Creator on the
31st of January, 2006, at the age of 76.

His loving wife **Teresita King**; children **Tommy** & **Susie**, **Susan** & **Ato**, **Sabrina** & **Jun**, and **Sandra** & **Danny**; grandchildren **Kester**, **Kerwin**, **Anne**, **Angeli**, **Sherika**, **Krystle**, **Ericson**, **Sherry**, **Kristine**, **Sarah**, **Richmond**, **Dayton**, **Daynard** & **Shanel** and all his relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Monday, February 6, 2006, at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 12:30 p.m. Memorial Services at Arlington.

In lieu of flowers please give your donation to any charitable institution of your choice.

JOSE L. POE JR.

of Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro
and Makati City, Metro Manila

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on 2 February 2006
at the age of 74.

The bereaved family
Wife, **Isabelita Bengzon Poe**
Children and Spouses (Grandchildren)
Milette and **Don** (**EJ**, **Mandi**, **Trixi** and **Lizzi**)
Cesar and **Zari** (**Joshua**, **Ged**, **Jose** and **Ysabel**)
Shubee and **Sam** (**Carmen**, **Sammy**, **Joey** and **Katerina**)
Jojo and **Pinky** (**Angela** and **JV**)
Micaela (**Billie**, **Dani** and **Juj**)
Gen
Josef
and **Jing**

request relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Capilla del Señor,
Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on 5 February 2006
at the Manila Memorial Park after the 1:00 p.m. Mass
at Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio.

LOVINGLY REMEMBERED, SADLY MISSED
OUR DEARLY BELOVED

Benigno V. Cunanan

on his First Death Anniversary
February 4, 2006

His loving wife, **FELICITAS VILLARAMA-CUNANAN** and their children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Masses offered in the following churches:

St. James the Great Parish, *Ayala Alabang*	Jan. 26, Feb. 3 & Feb. 4	6:30 p.m. 6:20 a.m.
St. Jerome Emiliani Parish, *Alabang*	Jan. 26 & Feb. 4	6:00 a.m.
Lourdes Church, *Kanlaon, Q.C.*	Feb. 4	7:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Hope Parish, *Pag-asa, Q.C.*	Feb. 4	6:30 a.m.
Chapel of the Holy Annunciation Sisters, *Muntinlupa*	Jan. 26 & Feb. 4	7:00 a.m.
Baguio Cathedral, *Baguio City*	Feb. 4	6:00 a.m. 7:00 a.m.
Tambubong Catholic Chapel, *San Rafael, Bulacan*	Jan. 29	6:00 a.m.
San Juan de Dios Parish, *San Rafael, Bulacan*	Jan. 29 Feb. 4	5:30 a.m. 6:00 a.m.
Immaculate Conception Chapel, *Marungko, Angat, Bulacan*	Feb. 4	7:00 p.m.
Sta. Monica Parish, *Angat, Bulacan*	Feb. 4	6:00 a.m.

"Even when
I walk
through a
dark valley,
I feel no
harm. For
you are at
my side,
your rod
and staff
give me
courage..."
Psalm 23:4

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"In peace I shall both lie down and sleep for You alone Lord make me secure." **(Psalm 4:9)**

Message of Thanks

The wife, children, mother, brother,
nephews, nieces
and in-laws of the late:

Rodolfo Rafael "Dodjie" Entao Munsayac

wish to express their heartfelt gratitude to
all relatives, friends, batch mates, colleagues
and associates who generously assisted,
condoled, sympathized with us, and
showed in many other ways their love, concern
and support during the time of our greatest grief.

Let us continue to pray for the
eternal repose of his soul.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

In Loving Memory
of our Dearly Beloved

CONCHITA R. MANGALINDAN, M.D.

who passed away in the Grace of the Lord
on January 22, 2006 at the age of 84.

Her bereaved family: husband, **Enrique** (†); children and children-in-law, **Alice** and **Vedasto Lim**, **Mario** and **Tessie**, **Johnny** and **Lani**, **Tess** and **Danny Mariano**, **Luz** and **Rey Padua**, **Enrique, Jr.** and **Ochie**, **Corazon**, **Raul** and **Vica**, **Jose Ireneo** (†), and **Anne** and **Ken Tadeo**; sister, **Evelyn**; brother, **Florizel** and sister-in-law, **Millie**; grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Imperial Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Her remains will be cremated on Monday, February 6, 2006 at 11:30 a.m. after the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 9:30 a.m.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." **Matthew 11:28**

In loving memory
of the 1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY of

REV. FR. ANDRES R. ARBOLEDA JR., SSP

on February 6, 2006

Holy masses will be offered on February 6, 2006, at

Our Lady of Assumption Parish, .. 6:00 am
Guinobatan Albay
Christ the King Parish, ... 6:00 am
Filinvest II, Batasan Hills, Quezon City

Arboleda Races family invites you to join us in prayer
for the eternal repose of his soul

BUSINESS

Sugar prices may become as volatile as oil's

Industrial users urged to buy directly from farmers

By Ronnel W. Domingo

WORLD SUGAR PRICES ARE EXPECTED to become as volatile as that of petroleum products due to growing global demand for ethanol, according to the Consumer Oil Price Watch.

Ethanol is currently being mixed with gasoline to save on petroleum expenses. As a fuel alternative, ethanol is also considered to be environment friendly.

COPW chair Raul T. Concepcion said this was what he gathered from his meeting with members of the Philippine Sugar Millers Association (PSMA).

The private sector watchdog is supporting the millers' group in its effort to increase production of sugar for processing into ethanol.

Yesterday, the PSMA also called on industrial consumers of sugar to buy directly from farmers to ensure the seamless flow of supply through the market.

PSMA data show that world prices of sugar has been on an uptrend since May 2005, when prices had hovered at 8.5 American cents per pound. Contract prices in the New York futures market on Feb. 1 closed at 18.29 cents per pound.

The PSMA said local prices were "beginning to track" world prices, which at the end of January was pegged at close to P1,200 per 50-kilogram bag.

Imported sugar, including the 38-percent tariff, fetches about P1,600 per bag.

"The landed price of imported sugar, even if (it were to be) duty free, would be higher than prevailing wholesale prices in the country," PSMA said. "No one knows at this time whether there will be a correction, or if there will be further hikes."

According to the sugar millers, this being the peak of harvest season, there is sufficient stock of sugar to meet domestic demand.

"Since the harvest is ongoing, it is possible for industrial users and wholesale buyers to buy directly from farmers at this time," PSMA said. "About 70 percent of all sugar in the bag is sold by sugar farmers and only about 30 percent by the mills, who only sell wholesale."

Concepcion said world sugar prices were on an uptrend because members of the European Union decided that they would no longer subsidize sugar for export.

He said the EU also agreed that all the sugar and corn now being produced for export would be diverted to the production of ethanol, as well as for their domestic needs.

Local sugar millers have requested Congress to approve a House bill that grants incentives in the production of ethanol from sugar cane.

In 2008, gov't budget seen at a surplus

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION EXPECTS the public sector, composed of the national government, local government units, and state-owned companies, to finally post a combined budget surplus by 2008.

Projections made by the Department of Finance showed that the consolidated public sector position would hit a surplus equivalent to 4 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) by 2008.

The estimate factored in the additional revenues from the recently implemented VAT Reform Law, which expanded the coverage of the value-added tax since Nov. 1 last year, and then raised the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent starting Feb. 1 this year.

The DOF estimated that the VAT law would generate P75 billion in additional tax collection for the national government this year.

The projection of a public sector surplus also took into account additional revenues from the national government's administrative measures to improve revenue collection by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs, and the directive for state-owned firms to improve their financial performance.

The consolidated public sector deficit (CPSD) hit 4.9 percent of GDP in 2004 and was programmed to go down to 3.5 percent of GDP in 2005.

The CSPD-to-GDP ratio is seen to further improve to 2.2 percent this year and to 0.5 percent in 2007 before it is wiped out and replaced by a consolidated public sector surplus-to-GDP ratio of 0.4 percent in 2008.

Saying the government is on track to meet its fiscal targets, the DOF is hopeful the country's credit ratings, or at least the outlook, assigned by credit rating agencies would finally be improved.

Currently, the outlook assigned on the Philippines by all three major ratings firms Standard & Poor's, Moody's Investors Service, Fitch Ratings is "negative," while all ratings are below investment grade.

Subic zone eyed as site for $300-M glassware factory

A CHINESE GLASS MANUFACTURER IS currently looking for a possible site in Subic for a planned industrial park that would include a $300-million glass factory, according to Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila.

China's Hebei Jingniu Group Co. Ltd. had signified as early as the third quarter of 2004 its interest to put up what would be the single biggest investment here of Asia's fastest-growing economy.

Hebei Jingniu originally went looking for a site of between 100 hectares and 130 hectares in Bataan but did not find an area suited to the firm's requirements.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority then initially offered the Redondo peninsula, but Favila said three sites had been suggested-including land in Tipo Hill and others in the Maritan area and an adjacent location—and that Hebei Jingniu was evaluating these for suitability.

Officials have said Hebei Jingniu planned to put up an industrial zone that would include two on-line production lines for coated float glass, which means that the coating could be put on the glass at the same time that the glass is being made.

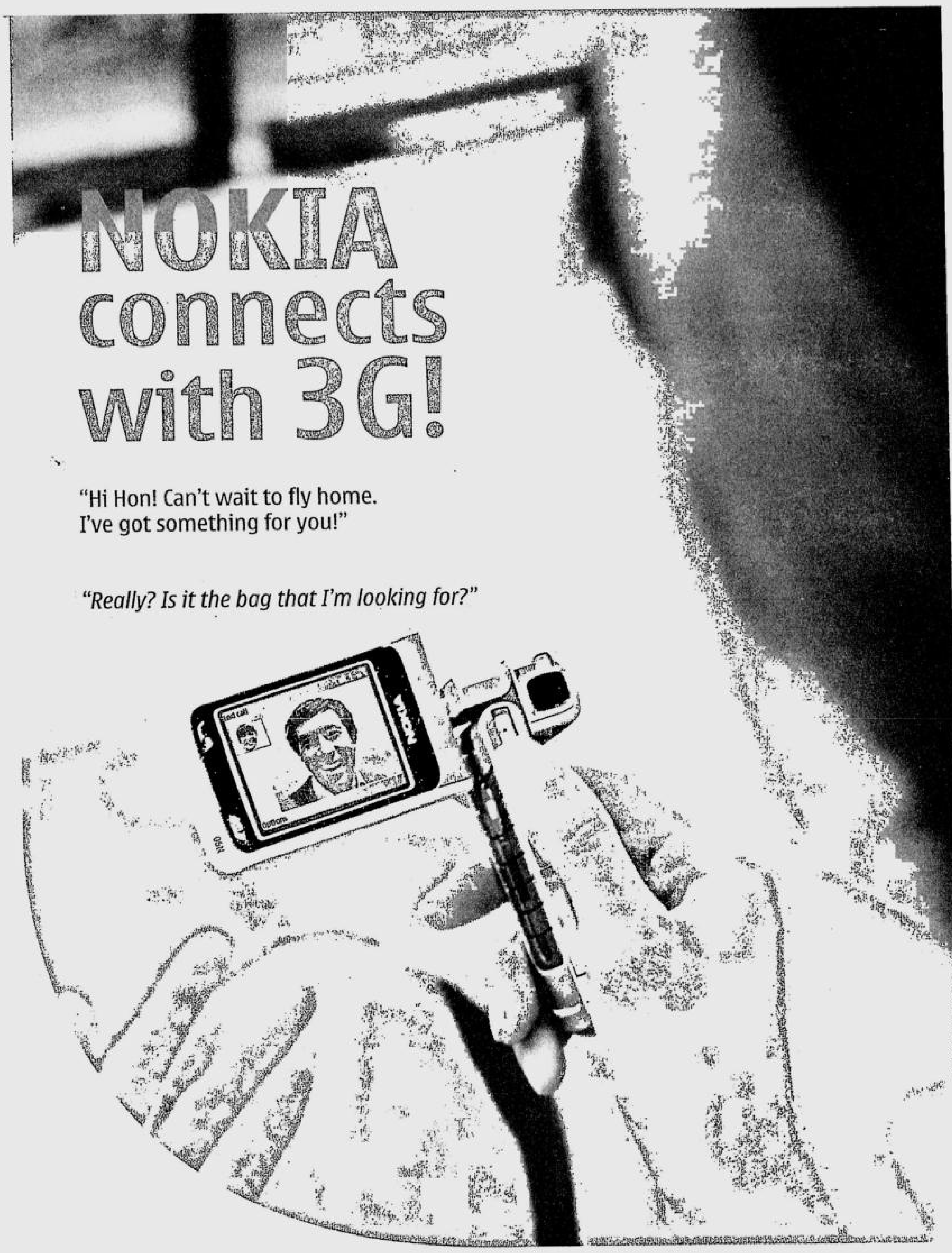
The business park would also have two high-technology rolling crystallite glass lines; one deep-processing line and another line that could combine the first two.

Hebei Jingniu also wants to put up a 30,000 kilovolt-ampere power plant as well as a production line for plastic yachts, which would be the first in the country.

The project is seen to create a total of 15,000 jobs for direct and indirect employment.

Hebei Jingniu's main products include a variety of float sheet glass, on-line solar control reflective glass, high-tech rolling crystallite glass with all kinds of color and specifications.

Ronnel W. Domingo



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"Really? Is it the bag that I'm looking for?"

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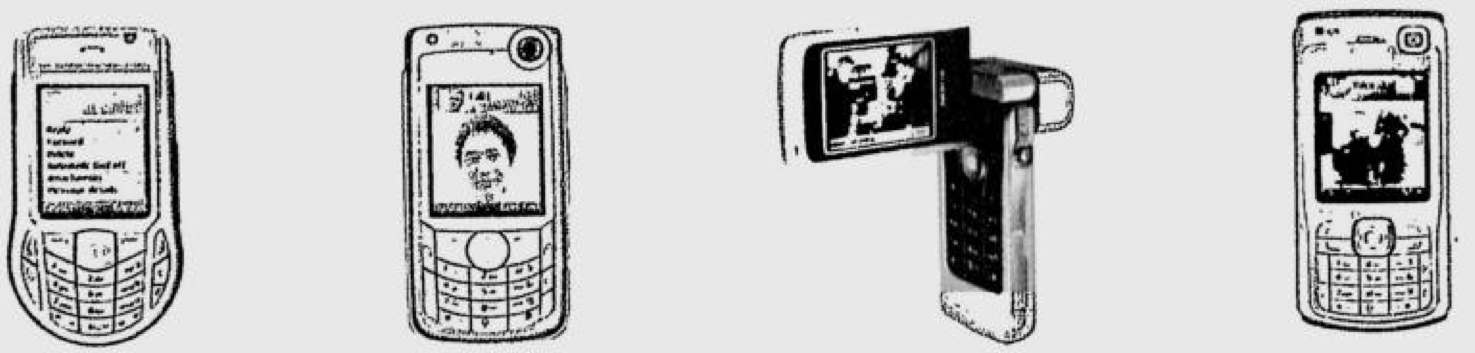

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* By Strategy Analytics' Advanced Wireless Laboratory (AWL) panels in London, UK and Milan, Italy. May 2005.
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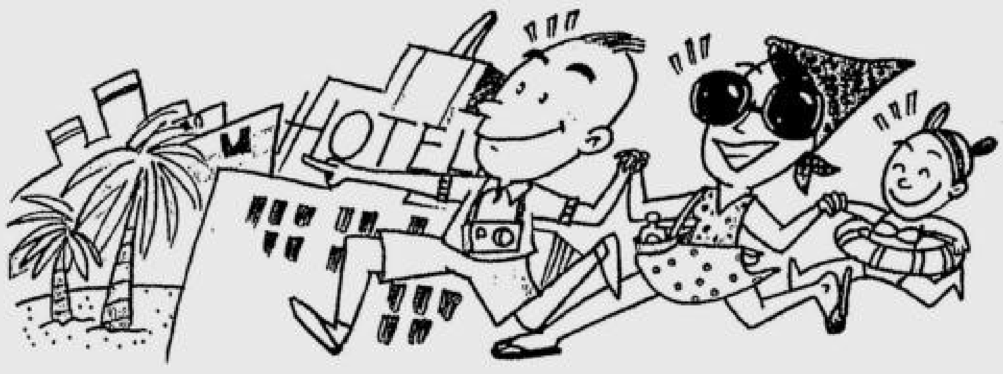
REST & RECREATION DEV'T

Leisure market to make presence felt

By Tessa R. Salazar



WHAT DOES 2006 HOLD for rest and recreation (R&R) development such as resorts and the retail/mall sectors?

Developers say the future is bright for this market, though at times it may be a bit "cloudy."

Eric Soriano, ERA Philippines country president and CEO, says he expects a softening of demand for lifestyle-related developments, adding that the primary targets are relatively small vis-à-vis the total percentage of the real estate market.

Primary target market

"In real estate demographics, we are looking at possibly a primary target market of around 7 percent for the lifestyle market," Soriano says. ERA Real Estate, a multinational real estate service provider, manages Eastwood.

Soriano, however, is optimistic when it comes to the retail/mall sector.

"I am bullish about the prospects in the retail/mall sector. Aside from the residential market, the retail front has been the saving grace for the industry as it continues to sustain positive growth through the years," he said.

Soriano adds that retail success will ultimately depend on private and government sector collaboration by way of infrastructure developments like new and improved roads, mass transit or people mover systems, consistency in urban planning, and informal settler relocation.

Quality resorts

Danilo E. Ignacio, general manager for Robinsons Land Corp.'s high-rise buildings division, sees a market for quality resorts, but stressed that this will be in selected niche markets only.

"Many areas in the country are already saturated, so expansion of commercial areas will be quite limited and selective," he says.

Marivic Añonuevo, vice president and head of Ayala Land Inc.'s leisure and lifestyle communities, says the need for rest and recreation becomes a want after an individual satisfies his or her primary needs such as a house to live in.

She adds that the Filipino market, while basically still a primary home market, has in recent years demonstrated an existing and "substantive" leisure market as evidenced by an estimated P8.2 billion in gross revenues in 2004 (Last year's figures indicate P9 billion in gross revenues, an increase of 10 percent, in the leisure area.)

RP firm ranks 94th in World Architecture Top 200

THE PHILIPPINES' PREMIER ARCHITECTURAL, planning and design firm Palafox Associates now ranks 94th overall in the World Architecture Top 200.

The result, as published in the January 2006 edition of BD World Architecture, showed the firm has improved its position in the overall listing of the Top 200 largest architectural practices in the world from its 105th place in 2005.

The list, being dominated by architectural firms from the United States, United Kingdom, Japan and other European countries, singled out Palafox Associates as the only Southeast Asian architectural firm.

Debut

The firm debuted in 1999 when it ranked 220th in the Top 500 architectural firms of the world. Six years later, Palafox Associates consistently eases its way up when it breaks into the Top 100 mark.

The Building Design World Architecture is published in London and is circulated around the globe. It holds an annual survey for the largest architectural practices based on project aggregate, workforce, fee income and market sectors.

These sectors, or fields of specialization, include urban design, transport, hotels, government buildings, education, residential, master planning, criminal justice, cultural, business parks, health care, sports, industrial, retail and leisure.

The data for the rankings and tables were gathered after practices from around the globe have been surveyed.

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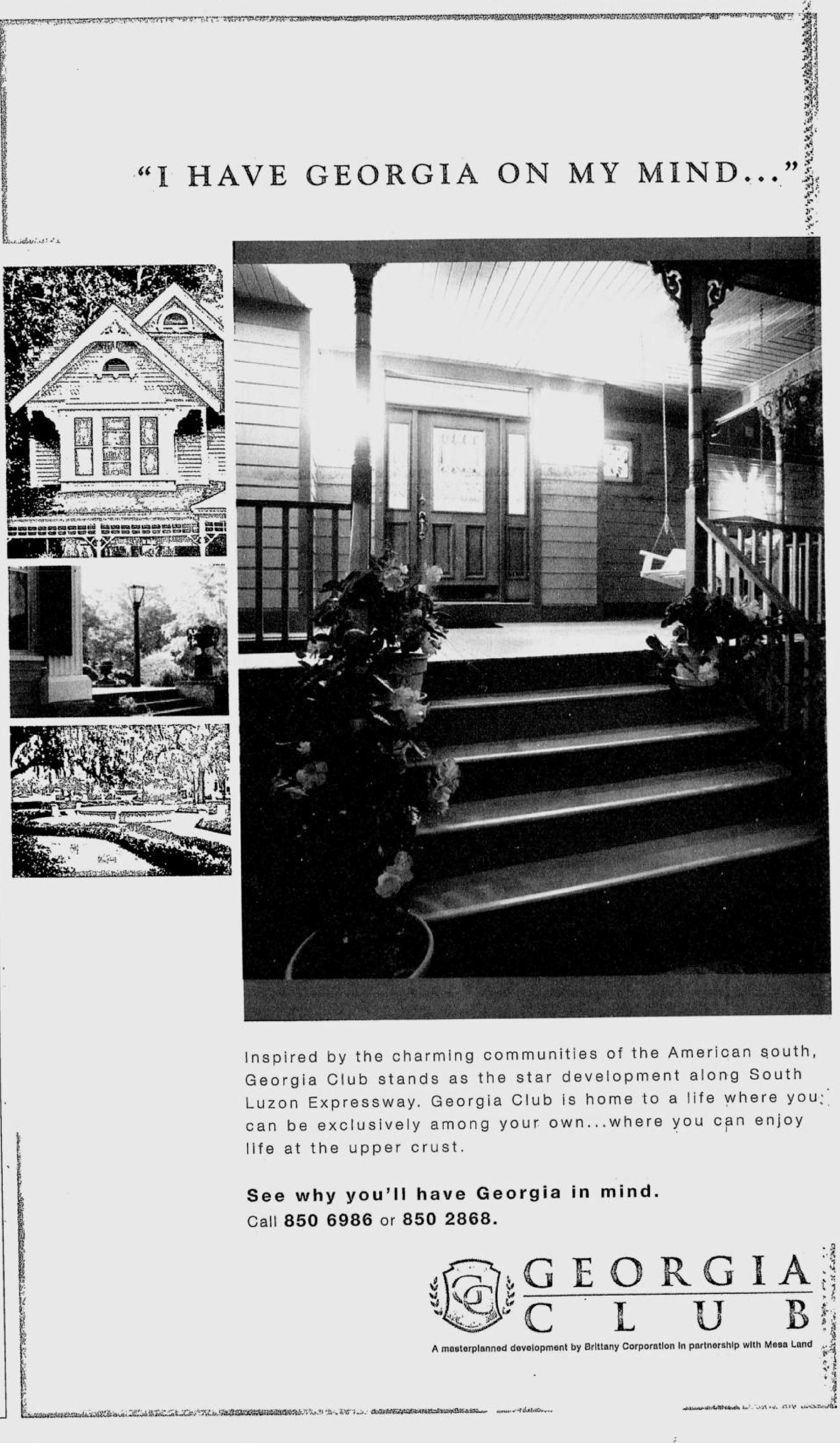
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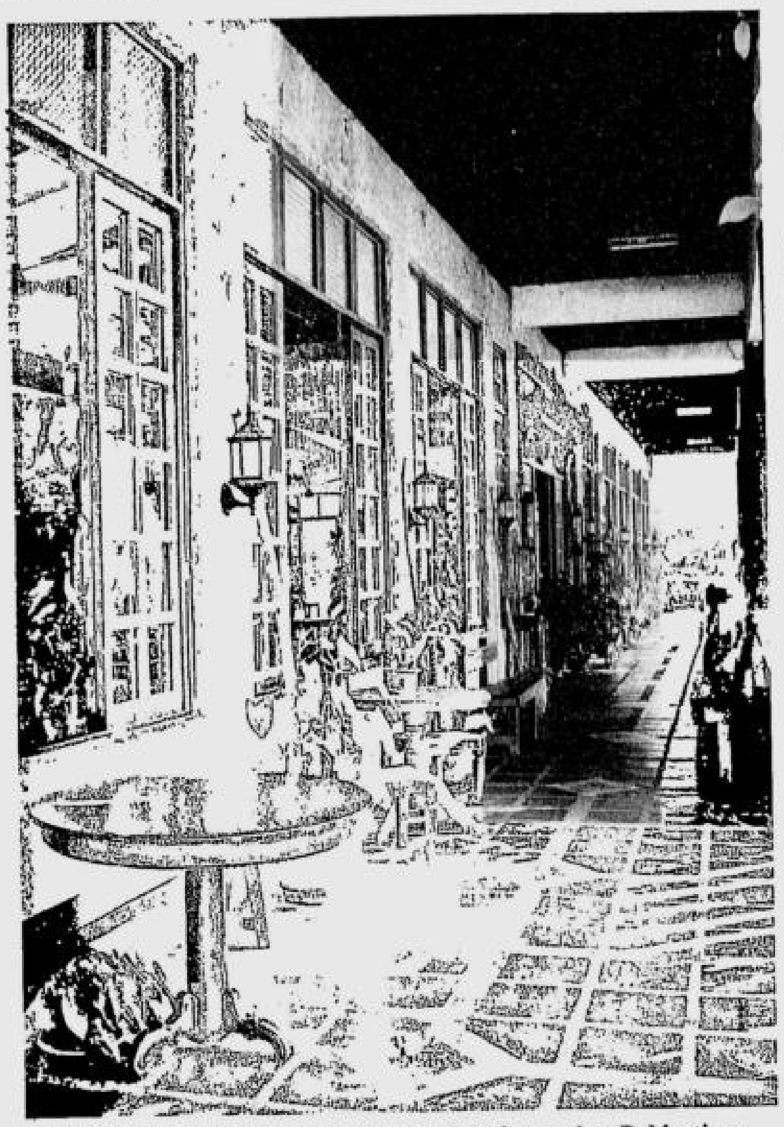
A masterplanned development by Brittany Corporation in partnership with Mesa Land

Creative passion



THE VERANDA of Kainan sa Dalampasigan located on R. Martinez Street, Nasugbu, Batangas

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

EVERYONE HAS PASSION and it comes in different forms. There is passion for excellence, for the arts and there is passion for love. All these were realized in the tradition of the Limjoco and Lucas families as seen in their heritage restaurant of Kainan sa Dalampasigan [(043)931–1134].

If you are looking for a place where you can feel at home while at the same time one with the nature, this is the place you are looking for. Drive to Barangay Bucana at Nasugbu, Batangas, whenever you are in the vicinity and you will furthermore witness what it is to have passion.

For those who have already dined here, it is a place considered going back to. Enclaved below Millionaires' vine scattered throughout the property, one is invited to forget about the city life and this time, to enjoy the provincial mode and the appetizing meal.

Filipino look

The rough cement finish of the walls though intended for economical considerations, blended well with the rustic old Filipino look of the development. Brick cut-outs accented these walls. The dominant feature is the use of wood with each piece having a story to tell. Wooden seats and tables used to be chopping boards, stair planks or various parts of old houses. Some were even salvaged from a house drifted by the storm.

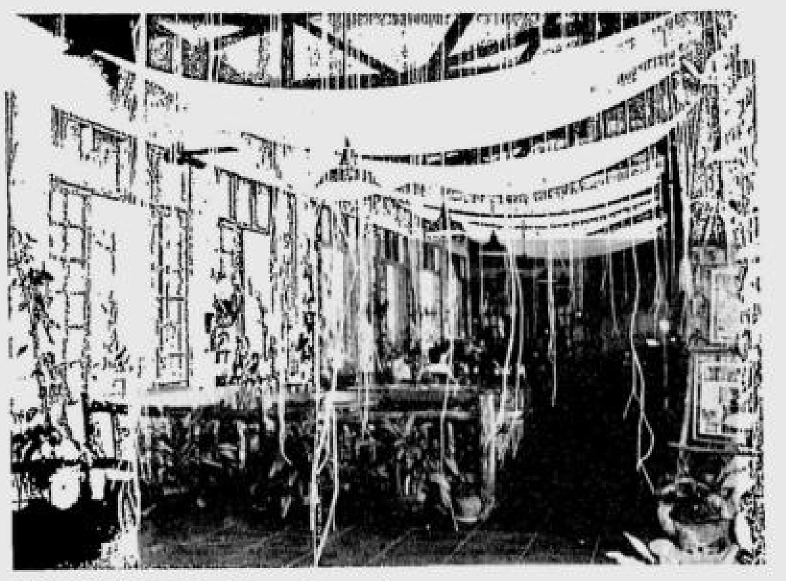
The operable windows that lined the perimeter of the restaurant are made of Molave wood and were proudly fabricated by hometown folks. These admit generous lighting and ventilation that cuts off much of electricity consumption during the day. Maan Lucas, an interior designer, converted the interiors into a venue for both casual and formal dining. Long strips of fabric lined the ceiling, softening what could apparently appear us rigid lines of the exposed Guijo wood trusses.

Lush landscaping

Existing trees from the original surroundings of the former pelota court were preserved and incorporated in the development. These were further enhanced by lush landscaping. The main entrance of the restaurant opens to a feature waterfalls with boulders from a nearby river and thrived with ornamental plants.

Vines crawled around cemented columns and leisurely branched themselves in and out of the restaurant. One cannot anymore distinguish where the structure ends and where landscaping begins. Thanks to the ingenuity of Mrs. Baby Lucas and her close friend Helen Saldana this blend creates an invigorating ambience.

The development evolved from an artistic concept of professionals who though not being architects, had designed their property with such passion for creativity. Neither standards nor rules had defined their design. Passion is what had made it all possible.



THE INTERIORS of the restaurant

Brittany creates master-planned communities

CONTRARY TO A GROWING URban legend, it takes more than four walls and a roof to make a home. And neither does a row of houses make a community. Terms such as "master-planning" and "urban renewal" are now being used as buzzwords with only a handful truly understanding the responsibilities that those words entail. Far too many prospective homeowners are being led to believe that the houses they intend to purchase are a part of a larger development.

Maverick real estate developer Brittany Corp. is now setting the records straight. While it is easy to claim on paper that a property being developed is master-planned, Brittany Corp. is one property developer that takes this concept to heart–translating mere words on paper into concrete structures that fulfill all its promises and more.

Developer's vision

"It all starts with a developer's vision to integrate a community or various communities with required components necessary in providing a higher quality of life for its residents," explained Brittany president Jing Serrano. "These are communities that enhance the way people live as opposed to simple residential projects," she added.

"A master-planned community becomes more ideal to the Philippine setting given that we still don't have an efficient transport system infrastructure. With a master-planned community, a developer exerts effort in providing its residents everything they could possibly need close by," she continued. "And with Brittany Corp., it should not just be a master plan. It had to be a master plan of the finest themed communities."

Italian-themed enclave

The Portofino development is a shining and concrete example of this vision of Brittany Corp. This Italian-themed enclave offers a complete range of amenities—anticipating any requirement that the homeowners could possibly need even before they realize that they need it. From deep wells to cable connections, each home is equipped with the modern conveniences to answer the homeowner's every need.

Apart from offering beautiful homes inspired by the grand architecture of southern Italy, Portofino homes recognized the need of families for an open space where everyone can gather. Thus, the courtyard serves as its focal feature. This theme repeats itself not only within the homes but across the community itself—creating clusters among homes where neighbors can gather in a more relaxed setting.

Occupying over 117 hectares of land on the Las Piñas-Cavite-Laguna-Muntinlupa Link Road, it is five minutes away from Alabang's business district and less than 30 minutes away from the central business district of Makati. And part of the Portofino development is a commercial space where residents will be able to shop for both necessities and luxuries.

"Aside from the residential component which could either be horizontal or vertical, master-planned communities provide for lifestyle amenities, commercial developments, places of worship, schools, business establishments, road networks, even open spaces. How a community is integrated with the rest of the major infrastructure is also a key component. With traditional subdivisions, the most you'll likely get would be a preschool and a Mom & Pop store," Serrano said.

Dynamic enclave

But Brittany Corp. has pushed the envelope even further. Brittany Bay, an oasis south of Manila that practically started the recent trend toward urban renewal, is more than a residential development. Its master plan is geared toward integrating various communities into a dynamic enclave that responds to the various housing needs of different people with unique requirements.

Inspired by the architecture of San Francisco, bay windows and ornate trimmings dominate the landscape. The Brittany Bay development consists of three well-defined districts: La Posada, Victorianne Row and Viera. And greeting the residents and their guests right along the highway is The Wharf—a commercial development providing a variety of dining and entertainment options for the homeowners.

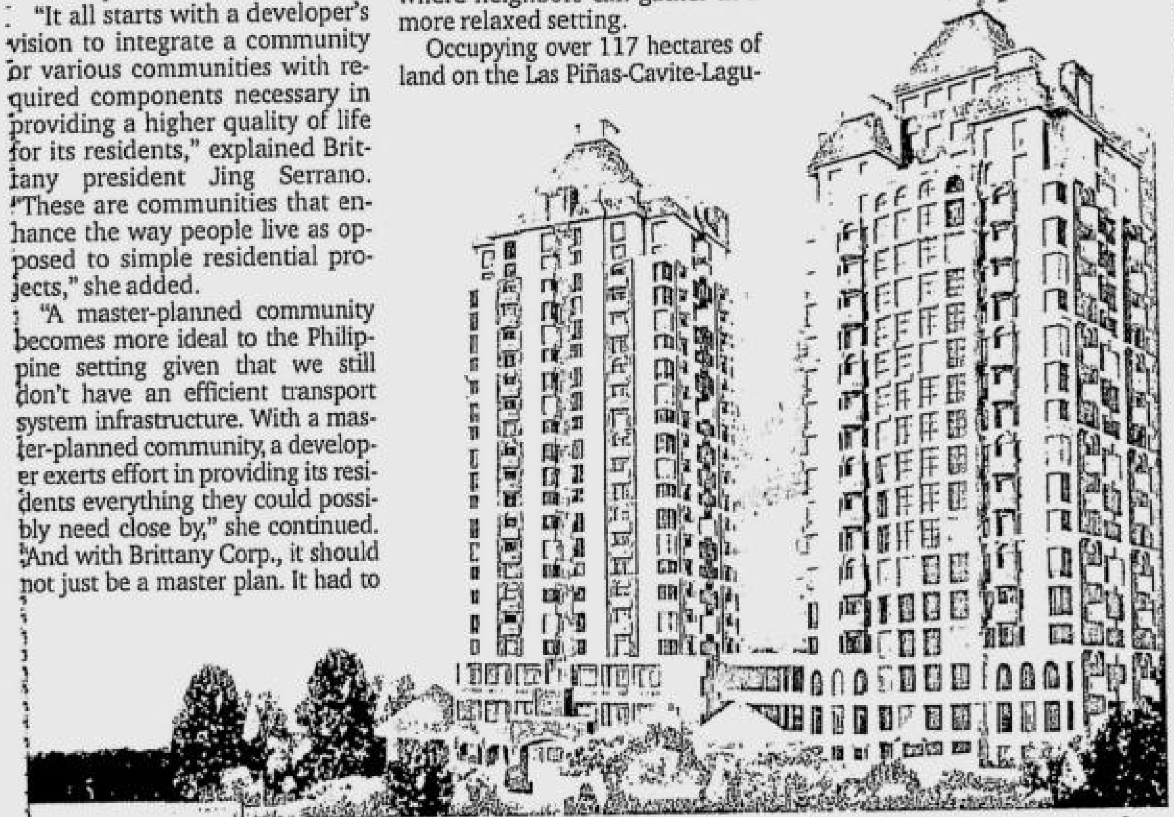
Urban renewal

"Just like how we applied master-planning to Brittany Bay, urban renewal could be the next big thing in community designs as opposed to urban redevelopment. In Brittany Bay, we have planned for all things one could possibly need—residential areas for multisegments with an array of home choices like single family homes, town homes, multifamily, even mid- and high-rise condo developments. Then you have business centers and commercial areas that complement the total picture because of a unifying theme. With these, I'd like to believe that the future is here," explained Serrano.

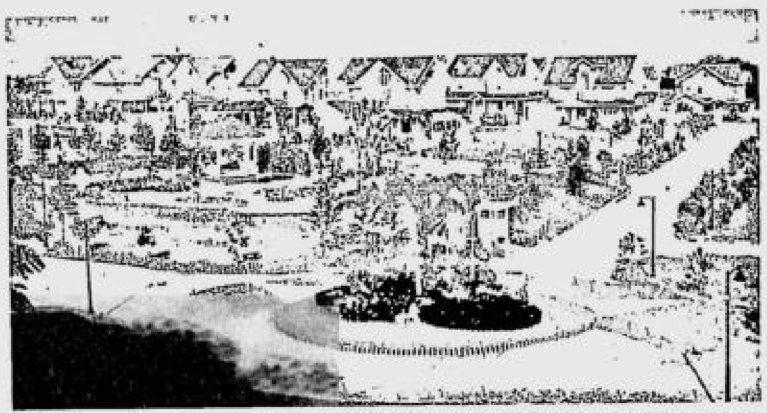
At the end of the day, however, the bottomline plays a key role for prospective homeowners when deciding on their purchase. But because the community is keenly master-planned with every minute detail thought of and turned into a reality, the choice is not so difficult to make. When we speak of value, Brittany certainly offers reasonable prices for all of its developments.

"It all adds up to value," Serrano reiterated. "A master-plan provides for forward planning making sure that your property investment grows in value in the future. The roads are built with the future in mind. You can build complementary neighborhoods in enclaves so you can be guaranteed of security yet still be a part of a bigger plan. You're not just buying a home, you're buying into a community, a way of life that in the future you need not be far from home to both work and enjoy playtime. And in the end, that is really what matters: your time with yourself and your family."

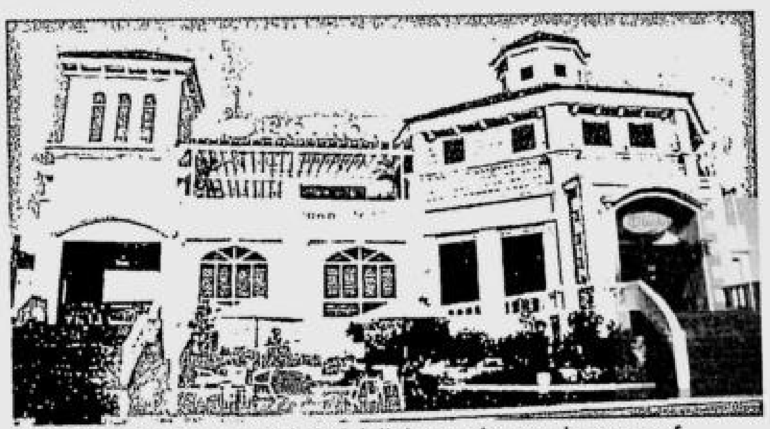
For inquiries and property previews, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084, or visit www.brittany.com.ph.



VIERA provides the convenience of condominium living without trading off privacy, style and a sense of community.



SAN Francisco-themed community in Brittany Bay is a development where everything one needs is close by.



THE WHARF presents delightful dining options and a range of activities for the whole family to enjoy.

Synthetic stones. . .

From page B2-4

still has clients who visit his JP Rizal (near Pateros Street) showroom in Makati City and request for a custom design (patterns with unique shades or color combinations), which the company can provide.

"Taste and preference varies. What may be popular nowadays may not be in the future and what is a favorite hue or color combination, say in Metro Manila, may not be in the provinces," he explained.

What is consistent for EZ Rocks products, said Reyes, is that they all underwent a meticulous production process, aided by many technological innovations the company has perfected through the years.

"I started this company in 1997 but my experience on this line of business dates back much earlier, working in the United States for 25 years. What I learned there is that you must be very sure about what you sell and to be able to stand out from the crowd only high-quality yet reasonably priced products will do," said Reyes.

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES, a division of the Philippine Tourism Authority invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the production/supply of

DFP UNIFORM 2006

The Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC) is Php 4,593,745.40, chargeable against DFP Corporate Fund

The prospective bidder should have at least three (3) years experience in the production of corporate uniforms

Interested bidders may obtain a complete set of bidding documents from the Purchasing Department, Duty Free Philippines, EHA Bldg., Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Parañaque City, on February 15 & 16, 2006, 9 00 AM to 5.00 PM, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000 00) in the form of cash. Pre-bid Conference is scheduled on February 21, 2006 at 1:00 p.m., EHA Bldg., 3rd Floor Executive Lounge. Submission and opening of bids and eligibility check shall be on March 03, 2006, Friday at 10.00 AM. Bids submitted after the deadline shall not be accepted. All applicants shall be notified on the results of the eligibility check

Unless otherwise indicated in the Instruction to Bidders or other bidding and contract documents, all particulars relative to the procurement and contract implementation shall be governed by R.A. 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

Duty Free Philippines reserves the right to waive any formality on the eligibility requirements of this project. Furthermore, DFP reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered as a result of this invitation, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder/s.

Contact Person:
Dulfin M. Garcia III – Member BAC Secretariat
Fiestamall, EHA Building, Ninoy Aquino Avenue,
Parañaque City
Tel Nos. 8793669 / 8793662 Fax No. 8793664
E-mail: bacsecretariat@dfp.com.ph

(Sgd.) MA. LOURDES DORIA VELARDE
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Feb 4 & 11, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
REGIONAL OFFICE NO VIII
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Tel. Nos. (053-3233075, 3233084)
FAX NO. 053-3233061

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR GRAINS HANDLING SERVICES FOR NFA EASTERN SAMAR

The National Food Authority, Regional Office VIII, Pawing, Palo, Leyte invites qualified grains cargo handling service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for provision of handling services in the different NFA utilized warehouses in Eastern Samar for CY 2006 (Rebidding) with the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC):

LOT NO.	PROVINCE	LOCATION OF WHSE.	EST. VOL. TO BE HANDLED (BAGS)	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
6	Eastern Samar	Hindang, Oras & Guiuan	476,000	P1,718,280 00

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall be obtained from the Regional Bids and Award Committee (RBAC) Secretariat after payment of a non-transferable/non-refundable bidding fee of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00). The schedule of bidding activities areas as follows:

ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Issuance of Registration, Eligibility & Bid Documents	Feb. 1-10, 2006	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	NFA-R.O. 8 Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Deadline for Submission of Required Registration & Eligibility Documents	Feb. 15, 2006	5:00 PM	NFA-R.O. 8 Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Issuance of Certificate of Registration & Notice of Eligibility	Feb. 22, 2006	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	NFA-R.O. 8 Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Pre-Bidding Conference	Feb 23, 2006	2:00 PM	Conference Rm, NFA-R.O. 8
Submission & Opening of Bids	March 6, 2006	9:30 AM	Conference Rm, NFA-R.O. 8

A Special Power of Attorney (SPA) issued by the Prospective Bidder Owner (for sole ownership) and/or resolution from the Board authorizing their representative (for Corporations) to purchase the bid documents, to sign for and in behalf of the owner/corporation whatever documents relative to the bidding and to attend the pre-bidding conference and during the opening of the bids and shall be required.

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any formality/informality of the bids, received and to accept only such Bids which are advantageous to the National Food Authority or to the government.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO J. ADORABLE
Asst. Regional Manager/
Chairman-RBAC, NFA-RO8

(PDI - Jan 28 & Feb 4, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City 1634
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5279

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND REBID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Quick Connect Pipes and Accessories Under FGO 50215
Approved budget: PHP23,900,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o Eloisa J. Hufana starting January 28, 2006 from 9 30 AM to 3 30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400 00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on February 6, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Procurement and Materials Management Division, at the above address and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than 2:00 p.m. (Procurement Department Office Wall Clock time) on February 20, 2006. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI–Jan. 28 & Feb. 4, 2006)

Coping with housing repairs and maintenance woes

CHOOSING THE RIGHT HOUSE TO BUY OR to build can be difficult, but maintaining it properly and doing repairs after a while can be even worse.

"Take the case of some of my friends, including myself, who are always too busy to attend to the maintenance requirements of the house, which may seem okay and in good shape but may actually be having a leak in the roof, and its door jambs, ceiling and partitions already rotting and being eaten away by termites," says engineer Peter Zamora, a project contractor who also manages a row of apartments and a medium-rise commercial and residential building in Valenzuela City.

Damage not easy to notice

"The damage is not easy to notice unless you are truly conscious about it. But if you really are, then you must also be doing regular maintenance such as pest-control treatment every six months, yearly roof repainting, and all other requirements depending on the materials used in your house," Zamora adds.

But the problem, according to Zamora, is that many homeowners are not even conscious or aware of the types of materials that their houses are made of and how to maintain them. "Many are guided only by the looks and costs of the materials," he says.

"The parts of the house that require diligent maintenance are, of course, those that are exposed to the elements like the roof and its fascia board, the door jambs that are made of wood and are nearest to the ground, the ceiling which is your second line of defense, and the partitions that also support your cabinets," Zamora explains.

"Yet, it all depends on the nature and durability of your materials," says carpenter Wilfredo Juanillo, who works for FBM Construction & Agro-Industrial Corp.

Why FBM uses HardiFlex

"Strongboard (magnesium oxide) *namamaga at nabibitak* (swells and cracks), gypsum *bumabagsak* (falls off the ceiling), asbestos *makati at nakakakanser* (causes itchiness and cancer) *at ang* lumber and plywood *nabubulok, nasusunog, at inaanay* (rots, catches fire, and gets eaten by termites)," Juanillo says, citing these as reasons FBM uses HardiFlex fiber cement boards instead for its housing projects.

He explains that doing otherwise can be very cumbersome to homebuyers who will shoulder the costly repairs resulting from the use of inferior materials.

This was confirmed by technical expert Renato Zagada, explaining how expensive repair works could be. "When the damage is already there, the repair work can become not only very expensive but troublesome, especially when you have to dismantle everything and have it all replaced by a superior material and the whole family gets dislocated in the process," remarks Zagada.

Indeed, house repairs are quite prevalent and account for a considerable share in family expenditures.

Hardiflex users

Data from James Hardie, maker of Hardiflex fiber cement boards, show that 70 percent of its sales come from homeowners doing repairs or replacing conventional materials.

Thus, many of the country's housing developers are now using HardiFlex fiber cement boards to save their clients from expensive repairs and maintenance woes.

These developers include property giants like the Ayala's Community Innovations Inc. and Laguna Property Holdings Inc., Phinma, Landco, Robinsons Land and Crown Asia.

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Basement MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. 435-3366, 920-5521 loc. 3600, 3615, 3616

INVITATION FOR ELECTRONIC BIDDING

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is inviting all interested Suppliers/ Manufacturers to participate in the **e-Bid** for the supply and delivery of various **FITTINGS** as listed below, as per MWSI Standard Specification.

No.	Qty.	Item/Description
1	30,000 pcs.	Brass Tailpiece 1/2 ISO 7 x swivel nut ISO 228 for water meter
2	64,424 pcs.	Brass Angle Valve with lockwing 15mm valve size Inlet: ISO 7-Rc 3/4; Outlet: Swivel nut ISO 228-G3/4
3	1,994 pcs.	Brass Angle Valve with lockwing 20mm valve size Inlet: ISO 7-Rc1 Outlet: Swivel nut ISO 228-G1
4	19,227 pcs.	Brass Straight Ball Valve, 15mm w/ lockwing Inlet: ISO 7 Rc3/4 Outlet: Swivel Nut ISO 228 G-G3/4
5	125 pcs.	Brass Straight Ball Valve, 20mm w/ lockwing Inlet: ISO 7 Rc1 Outlet: Swivel Nut ISO 228 G-1
6	73 pcs.	Brass Straight Ball Valve, 25mm w/ lockwing Inlet: ISO 7 Rc1-1/4 Outlet: Swivel Nut ISO 228 G1-1/4
7	83,629 sets	Steel Clamp Meter Protector 15mm (2 pairs per set)

As a part of pre-qualification, all prospective bidders are required to submit shop drawing, technical data and samples (at least 3-pieces) for each type of material, together with other pre-qualification documents as enumerated in the Bid Terms and Conditions, on or before February 15, 2006 at the MWSI-Purchasing Department.

Interested suppliers may, beginning February 03, 2006 to February 09, 2006 obtain further information and secure a complete set of pre-qualifications forms, technical specifications and terms and conditions upon payment of the non-refundable amount of **Two Thousand Pesos Only (P2,000.00)**. The documents can be secured at the Purchasing Department, Basement, MWSI Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City. Telephone Nos. 435-3366/435-3374; Fax No. 928-2303

The Electronic Bidding, scheduled on **March 01, 2006, (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m.** will be held at Bayantrade's Office (24/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark, Libis, Quezon City).

(Sgd.) LUIS M.Z. LERMA
Manager, Purchasing Dept.

(PDI - Feb. 4, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Luzon Regional Office, Cabanatuan City
Tel. No. (044) 463-1167 & 483-1168 / Fax No. (044) 600-2693
Website: www.nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Repair/rehab. of NFA-Pampanga Provincial Office
Repair of the roofing and ceiling portions of the Bldg.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-Central Luzon Regional Office (NFA-CLRO), Cabanatuan City through its 2005 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the sum of Php 1,198,683.35 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Repair/rehab of Provincial Office at NFA-Compound, Sindalan, Pampanga. Completion of the Works is required by One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Repair/rehab. of Provincial Office. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the execution of the contract. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs at the BAC Secretariat and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of RBAC activities are as follows (Sat./Sun./Holidays excluded)

RBAC Activities	Date	Time
Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Feb. 01-08, 2006	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Forms & Requirements	February 15, 2006	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Issuance of Bid Documents	March 01, 2006	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Pre-Bid Conference	March 15, 2006	10:00 a.m.
Submission and Opening of Bids	March 28, 2006	10:00 a.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address above and upon payment of a non refundable fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 2,500.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the Bidder or his authorized representative.

Venue for the Pre-bidding Conference, Submission and Opening of Bids shall be at the NFA-CLRO, Conference Room, Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) RUBEN J. RESIDE
Asst Regional Manager
RBAC Chairman

(PDI - January 28 & February 4, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID TRANSFER OF NFA STOCKS THRU VOYAGE CHARTER

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, through its *Corporate Budget for 2006* intends to apply the sum of *One Million Nine Hundred Ninety Eight Thousand and Five Hundred Pesos (P1,998,500.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Transfer of NFA Stocks thru Voyage Charter of NFA Region 7. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The National Food Authority, Region VII, Cebu City is inviting all interested licensed operators of vessels/barges whether owned through Bareboat/Time/Voyage Charter to apply for eligibility and to bid under the Letter Agreement for Vessel/Barge Hire for the shipment of rice from Cebu City to various destinations as indicated below:

VOLUME SCHEDULED FOR SEA DISPERSAL

DESTINATION		Lot No.	Maximum Quantity/Lot (bags)	Freight Rate/bag	Approved Budget for the Contract per Lot
Province	Port				
Camotes Is.	Poro	1	77,000	20.50	1,578,500.00
BOHOL	Ubay	2	20,000	21.00	420,000.00
TOTAL			97,000		1,998,500.00

Delivery of the GOODS is required upon receipt of Notice to Proceed until December 31, 2006, or upon completion of the services, whichever is applicable.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights and privileges to Filipino Citizens pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders (ITB). The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY and inspect the Bidding Documents at *NFA, Banilad, Cebu City* starting January 28, to February 06, 2006 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00)*. The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be reviewed personally by the prospective Bidder or his duly authorized representative.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *February 07, 2006 @ 10:00 AM* at *NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City*. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on *February 20, 2006 not later than 10:00 AM*. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Bdugat for the Contract to be bid, in the following schedule and form or any combination thereof:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of the ABC to be bid
Cash / Cashier's / Managers Check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank in Cebu City or	One Percent (1%)
Surety Bond issued by GSIS marked "Callable on Demand"	Two & a Half Percent - (2.5%)

Bid opening shall be on *February 20, 2006 @ 10:00 AM at NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bidding. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
PIOLITO C. SANTOS
Banilad, Cebu City
032-232-1932
email address: nfaro7@cvis.net.ph
032-233-6095
website: www.nfacebu.net.ph

(Sgd.) PIOLITO C. SANTOS
RBAC Chairman / ARD

(PDI – January 28 & February 4, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The National Housing Authority is inviting *Offers to Purchase / Lease* on an *"As Is – Where Is"* basis, the following properties

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE
I. FIRST OFFERING			
LEASE			
001	343.06 commercial lot & bldg. with a floor area of 114 sq.m.	Phase II-A Karangalan Village Project Pasig City	PhP 11,823/mo.
002	863.57 sq.m. commercial lot	Block 140, Phase II, Karangalan Village Project, Pasig City	PhP 62.50 / sq.m. / mo. or PhP 53,973.12
SALE			
003	541 sq.m. commercial lot, with structure, with title	Block 9, Maharlika Village Project, Taguig	PhP 8,000 / sq.m. (lot) PhP 6,784.30 (structure)
004-006	3 commercial lots, lot areas ranging from 299 sq.m. to 306 sq.m. with technical descriptions	Phase X, Pckg. 6, Block 4 Bagong Silang Resettlement Caloocan City	PhP 2,580 / sq.m. to PhP 2,700 / sq.m.
II. SECOND OFFERING			
SALE			
007-020	14 commercial lots, lot areas ranging from 50 to 53 sq.m. With titles	Phase IV, Towerville, Resettlement Project, San Jose Del Monte City	PhP 2,475 / sq.m. to PhP 2,500 / sq.m.
021-024	4 commercial lots, lot areas ranging 74 to 295 sq.m. With technical descriptions	Mayon Vista Hills Subd., Tuburan, Ligao City, Albay	PhP 1,600 / sq.m. to PhP 1,785 / sq.m.
III A. NEGOTIATED SALE			
025-037	13 commercial lots, lot areas ranging from 192 to 437 sq.m With titles	Phase III-E, Bagong Nayon, II Antipolo	PhP 3,500 / sq.m.
040	1,113 sq.m. commercial lot With title	Towerville Resettlement Project, San Jose Del Monte City	PhP 3,000 / sq.m. or 3,339,000.00
041-051	11 commercial lots, lot areas ranging from 240 to 978 sq.m. With titles	Towerville Resettlement Project, San Jose Del Monte City	PhP 3,000 / sq.m. PhP 3,250 / sq.m.
052-075	24 commercial lots, lot areas ranging from 240 to 324 sq.m. With titles.	Mayon Vista Hills Subd. Brgy. Tuburan Ligao, Albay	PhP 1,540 / sq.m. PhP 1,700 / sq.m.
B. NEGOTIATED SALE OR LEASE			
076-274	199 commercial lots, lot areas ranging from 170 to 287 sq.m. With titles	Pampanga Hsg. Project, Pandacaqui, Telepayong Mexico, Arayat	Sale : PhP 1,600 / sq.m. to PhP 1,800 / sq.m. Lease : PhP 6.67 to Php 7.50 / sq.m. / mo.
C. DEVELOPMENT THROUGH JOINT VENTURE/NEGOTIATED SALE, LEASE OR LEASE WITH OPTION TO PURCHASE			
275	5,105 sq.m. commercial lot. With title	Lapu-lapu Avenue Cor. Babanse and Ayungin Sts., Phase I, Dagat-dagatan Development Project	Sale : PhP 10,200 / sq.m. or PhP 52,071,000.00 Lease : PhP 42.50 / sq.m./mo. or PhP 216,962.50 / mo.

TERMS:

For properties for lease, a minimum of two (2) months deposit and one (1) month advance shall be tendered on the date of bidding. Lease period shall be for a maximum of fifteen (15) years renewable for another five (5) years at the option of NHA A Five Percent (5%) escalation rate shall be imposed beginning on the 2nd year of lease and every year thereafter.

A minimum of Ten Percent (10%) deposit shall be tendered on the date of bidding for properties for sale through public bidding and the time of submission of Letter of Intent for negotiated sale; Options for repayment period are *Cash, Modified Cash* (Six (6) equal installments without interest) or *Installment* for a maximum period of *Ten (10) years* with graduated interest rates

The Letter of Intent for negotiated sale/lease/lease with option to purchase and joint venture may be submitted at the respective Project Offices on the following working day from first publication of this Notice of Disposition

Bidding Materials can be secured for a non-refundable fee of PhP 200.00 from the *Commercial / Industrial Bids & Awards Committee (COINBAC) c/o the Commercial & Industrial Estates Department (CIED)*, Second Floor, NHA Main Bldg Elliptical Road, Quezon City. Bidding materials can also be secured from the II. Project Offices:

For further inquiry, please contact Ms. Evelyn V. Ramos/Nen A. Subido at the following Tel. Nos. of CIED: (02) 922-3002, (02) 928-4561 local 263 & 264.

SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC BIDDING	KARANGALAN / BAGONG SILANG / TOWERVILLE MAHARLIKA, TAGUIG	ALBAY
A. *Submission of Pre-Qualification Requirements*	Feb. 1 to 8, 2006 Office Hours NHA Main Office, Elliptical Rd., Diliman, Quezon City	Feb. 13 to 22, 2006, Office Hours NHA Ligao, Project Office
B. *Pre-Bid Conference*	Feb 6, 2006, 10:00 a.m. Operations Center, 3rd Flr., NHA Main office	Feb. 22, 2006, 10:00 a.m. NHA Ligao, Project Office
C. *Submission of Sealed Bids*	Feb. 10, 2006, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, Operations Center	Feb. 24, 2006, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. NHA Ligao, Project Office
D. *Opening of Sealed Bids*	Feb. 10, 2006, 1:30 p.m. Operations Center	Feb. 24, 2006, 10:30 a.m. NHA Ligao, Project Office

The AUTHORITY reserves the right to *reject* any or all offers or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and accept offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) FEDERICO A. LAXA
General Manager

(PDI - January 29 & February 4, 2006)

Synthetic stones offer virtually unlimited design options

By Charles E. Buban

THE LOOK OF STONE, WHICH FOR many architects and builders add timelessness, variety and beauty to their projects, is also a favorite among homeowners who are convinced such motif would lend stature and convey an image of quality to their homes.

While before their choice was limited to the use of natural stones, architects and builders nowadays have another option: manufactured or synthetic stones.

Synthetic stones look like any kind of real stone. In sight, they are almost indistinguishable.

"Synthetic stones are the closest thing to natural stones in terms of look and texture since they are cast in special molds that were taken from selected natural stones using a process that replicates even the faintest detail of the original stones" explained Hector Reyes, president of EZ Rocks (895-2275), a leading manufacturer and supplier of these decorative stone products.

Much lighter

But unlike natural stones, Reyes explained that synthetic stones are much lighter, thus much easier and quicker to install, cost 25 to 35 percent cheaper, create virtually no waste, and can be applied in places real stone cannot.

"Synthetic stones are not structural (not the wall or post themselves since they are installed on structures like tiles), almost any wall can bear their weight," he added.

EZ Rocks products are available in both flat (sold per square meter) and corners (sold prelinear meter) to make installation more convenient.

Reyes said synthetic stones are available in various patterns, shades and color combinations, giving architects and builders unlimited design possibilities when working with interior and exterior walls, garden walls, fireplaces, columns, entrances, etc.

The pigments are applied during the casting process making them integrally part of the stones and are colorfast (do not fade in time). In addition, the company's unique formulation of iron oxide pigments enable Reyes to achieve different shades and color combinations.

Hundreds of molds

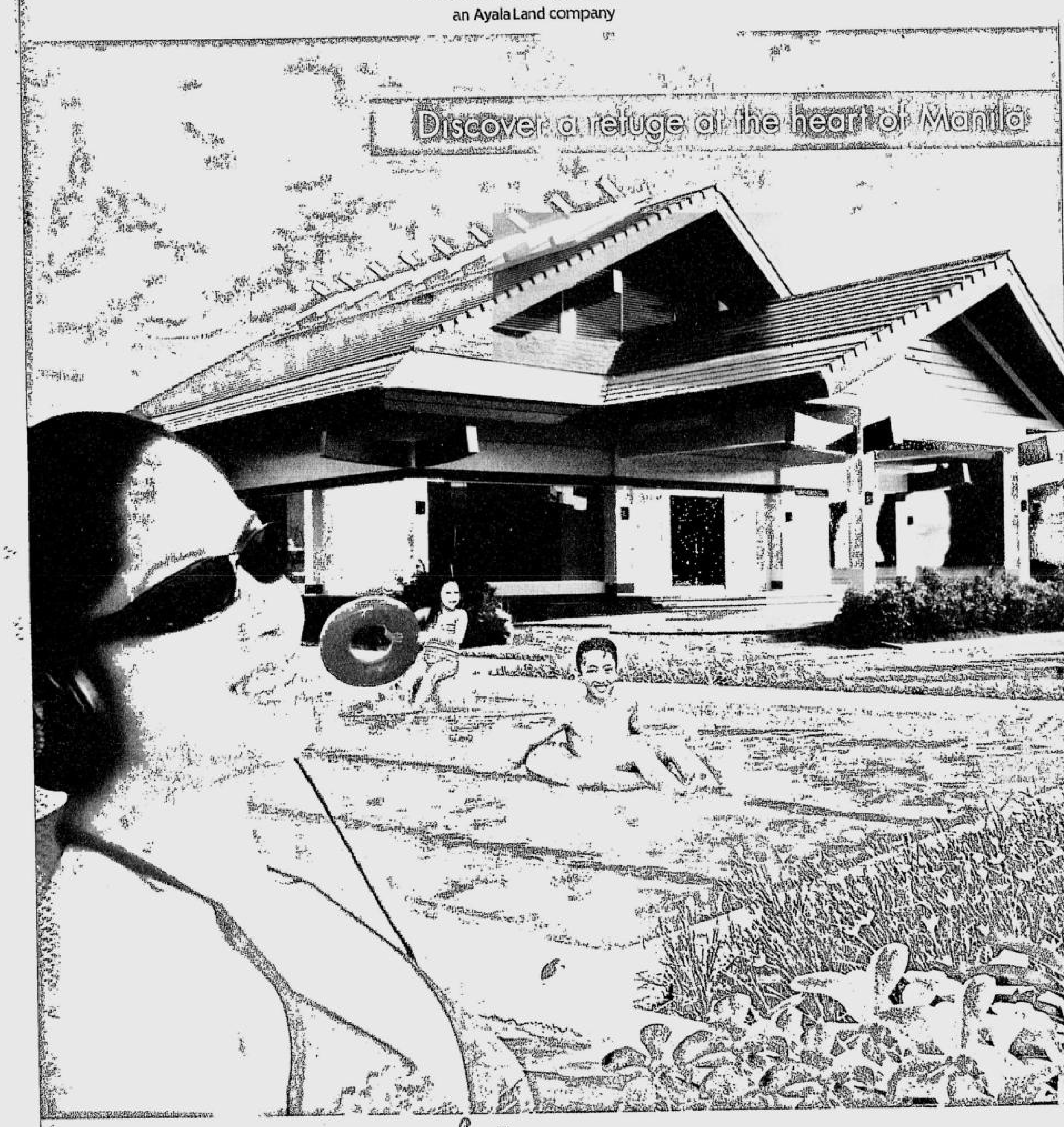
To avoid repetition in the pattern, Reyes said he uses hundreds of individual molds.

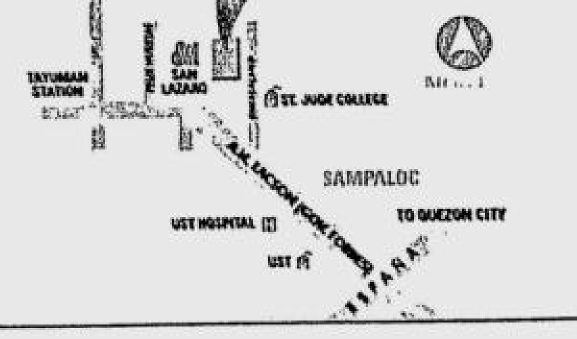
"It's a cumbersome process but the result is amazing," he said.

Although EZ Rocks already carries eight different stone profiles or styles with over 40 color palettes (which already provide their clients several designs to choose from), Reyes said he

SYNTHETIC/ B2-2

REYES explained that each of these profile and color palettes conveys unique ambiance.





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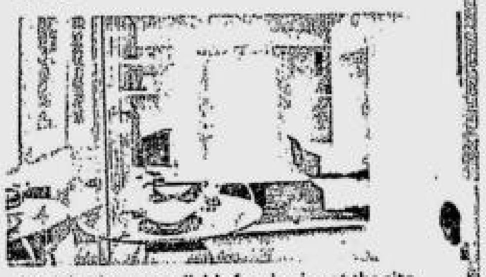
Ayala Land Chairman Fernando Zobel de Ayala and Vice-President Noli De Castro (3rd and 4th from left) led the toast in celebrating life at the Avida Towers San Lazaro site. With them are (L-R): Manila Jockey Club President Alfonso Reyno, Jr., Avida Land Corp. President Dinna Bayangos, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, Ayala Land President Jaime Ayala and Congressman Miles Roces.

Ayala Land chairman Fernando Zobel de Ayala and officials of the Manila Jockey Club recently led planners and officers of Avida Land Corp. in welcoming guests to the launch of its new residential condominium project in the City of Manila, Avida Towers San Lazaro. Guests including Vice-President Noli de Castro, Rep. Miles Roces and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, were delighted to see plans for the project envisioned as the unexpected refuge at the heart of the busy city.

The theme of the event as well as the model units were appropriately Zen-inspired. Friends of the Manila Jockey Club, Ayala Land and Avida Land officers and associates, peeked at the model units designed for professionals, students and young families in contemporary lines with Asian touches.

But more than just a smart casual event, the cocktail launch was historic, according to Jaime I. Ayala, president of Ayala Land and Chairman of Avida Land Corp. He recalled that the first headquarters of the founders of the Ayala Group was in Escolta, Manila. Nevertheless, most of Ayala Land's real estate projects were in Makati and south of the business district. The San Lazaro project is the first in the City of Manila so in a sense, the Avida launch was a homecoming of sorts for the Ayala Group.



Model units are available for viewing at the site.

Avida Land Corp. is the former Laguna Properties Holdings, Inc. which has been offering dream homes to professionals, employees and entrepreneurs for as low as P1 million. The company now has 27 projects in 13 locations throughout Luzon. It certainly had outgrown its original name, according to Dinna Bayangos, president of Avida Land Corp. Thus, the company was rechristened Avida which is short for "ave" or "hail" and "vida" or "life." "We're very much in the business of offering communities that celebrate life," smiled the approachable Avida Land president.

Bayangos acknowledged that the Avida residential projects throughout the country were very much appreciated by the Government because they provided much-needed quality housing for the middle class. Vice-President De Castro, in his remarks, paid tribute to Avida Land for making available more quality homes for mid-income earners, while Mayor Atienza expressed gratitude to Avida Land for selecting Manila as the site of its third in-city condominium development.

Media guests as well as real estate observers were delighted that the units were surprisingly affordable with monthly amortizations costing almost as much as monthly rentals. Fittingly, the evening was capped with fireworks that lit up the night sky and the cozy sales pavilion. It was indeed a memorable way to launch a great project.

Visit www.avidaland.com or call 864-5744 for inquiries.

Dinna Bayangos and Fernando Zobel de Ayala present the Avida Towers scale model to Mayor Atienza, Vice-President De Castro and Congressman Miles Roces

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SuperICountdown

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style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Fun machine

A different kind of Bling page C2

Tals Diaz's morning after page D1

What happened to Big Time? page D3

New attractions at the Eurostar Carnival page C4

Produced by DAVID MILAN
Photography ALEX VAN HAGEN
Makeup JESI MENDEZ TEAM
Styling CORINE ALEGRE AND KARLA VALINDAHAO
Cover CARNIVAL CHARACTERS

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MERRY EL CIRKULO. LEICA CARPO, TESSA PRIETO-VALDES, AMANDA CARPO AND MALU GAMBOA

OKAY KA PARE KO. THE BLONDE BIRTHDAY BOY IN HIS KINGDOM

CARNIVAL SUPERCLUB EMBASSY AT EUROSTAR!

Carnival Kingdom

How did our blonde carnival king celebrate his Super birthday? With balloons, bubbly and a whole lotta Bling™

RAYMOND GUTIERREZ, SHEEVA ZARECHIAN, ANNE CURTIS AND LAWRENCE MANALANG OF L TIME STUDIO

MTV TOP JACK MADRID, TJ BESA AND TWINKY LAGDAMEO

SUPER!'S JAMES GABRILLO, LIZETTE CLAUDIO, CLAIRE OLIVAR AND JOHN JOE JOSEPH

BLING MOTO. DENISE HAAK AND MARI LITONJUA

PINOY BLING BROTHERS. UMA BARUM AND CASS PONTI

BLING IDEAL. GUSTAVO, MARIANNA AND NIKOLAS

PREVIEW PREFERS PAULINE AND RAFFY JUAN

By Gino de la Paz

Photos by Eddie Boy Escudero, Daniel Tan, Alex Van Hagen, Ruben Mangila and Willy Saw

"OH MY GOD, TIM YAP IS now a brand."

I actually heard someone say that a few nights ago at Embassy Cuisine. And glancing at the well-dressed (and half-drunk) VIPs who were, in turn, glancing at the wide screen, it was apparent whose night this was. But that's getting way ahead of the story.

The invite said 8 p.m., which meant 9ish. After being greeted by perky Mini-Me's, models outing their inner Kuya Germs, and the usual band of party-hearty peeps, I made my way to the center of this beautiful people petting zoo to finally greet our blonde birthday boy.

"Happy birthday, Tim!" I mimed, trying my darndest to talk over booming voices.

"Hey, happy birthday, TIM!" This time I shouted, since the whole Marcel Marceau thing was proving to be quite ineffective and outrageously inappropriate. And some idiot stepped on my immaculately white Rod Lavers at around that same time. Annoying.

Shot down once again, I decided to approach the guy and grab him by the shoulders. "I said, hey, happy birthday, TIMOTHY BRIAN YAP!"

Turns out, it wasn't Tim, but a bleached facsimile, and one with non-exfoliated skin. My mind jogged back to an early-period Eminem video, the one for "The Real Slim Shady," where an army of Marshall Mathers clones marches in assembly line fashion. Time for a vodka tonic. Maybe three.

Before long, though, the real Tim Yap moseyed into the restaurant, channeling both Richie Rich and the Burger King. He was trailed by—OMG—a TV crew. I have since dubbed them Team Yap.

Then, in a haze of exploding flashbulbs, Cindy Kurleto appeared, parting the curtains by the washrooms to introduce Tim and his new MTV reality show, "Bling." This was what the wide screen was for. Holla.

After that, designer popcorn from Chimara and "Tim Yap Forever" t-shirts flew across the room. It was like Willy Revillame handing out rolled up calendars in "Wowowee." Why I know that, I will never say.

Those who stayed on long enough got tickets to the Eurostar Carnival nearby, prompting debates on the soundness of hopping on several amusement park rides while clearly buzzed. Or not.

I discovered the trickiest part in mastering those rides wasn't swallowing the puke that rose up your throat. Rather, it was looking awesome and naturally photo-ready after you got off.

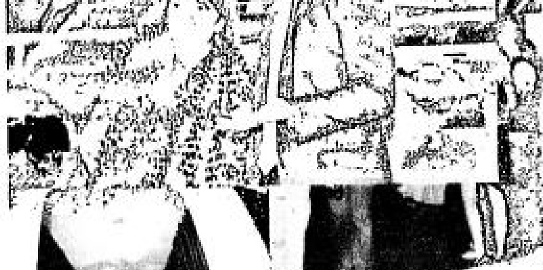
Yeah, The Tim shut down the carnival that night and ran it his way. That implied celebrities, a house music DJ, and of course, photographers. It was surreal, the feeling of being drugged without actually ingesting stuff coupled with the pressure of trying to look like I wasn't drugged, but I think I pulled it off. I'm an alien.

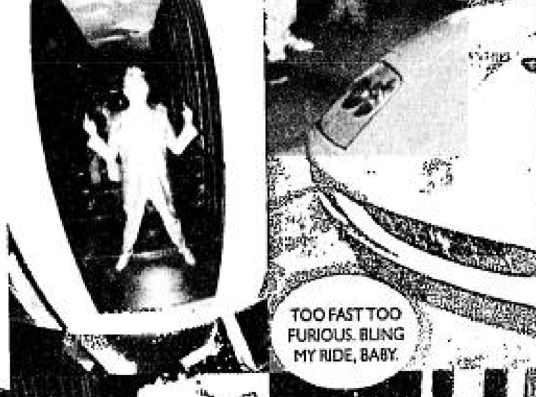
Anyway, the night's overall vibe was awesome. Vertically-challenged people found gainful employment making balloon animals, everyone boozed up for free, and to top that off, the carnival, at least that night, became home to freaks of a different kind.

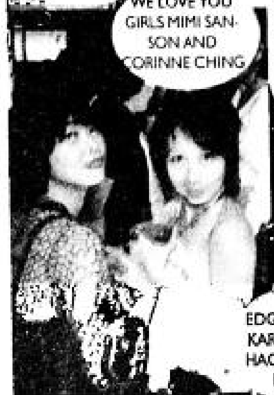
Super! shout outs go to Rajo Laurel for The Tim's golden getup, Jesi Mendez Salons for the carnival characters' makeup, Jaguar Cars for transport from Embassy Cuisine to Eurostar Carnival, Chimara Popcorn, Diageo, Moet & Chandon, Absolut Vodka, Rene Barbier Wines, Miller Geniune Draft Beer, Eurostar Carnival, Cyril the Balloon Guy and Penk Ching of Pastry Bin for the Bling birthday cake. Till the next party!

MTV Bling premieres on Tuesday, V-Day, Feb. 14 at 11 p.m., with replays on Thursdays at 8:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.

SUPER GO ROUND. PAM AND ARVIN PASTOR


NOT TESSA, BUT LOVE AÑOVER WITH TIM YAP


TOO FAST TOO FURIOUS. BLING MY RIDE, BABY.


WE LOVE YOU GIRLS MIMI SANSON AND CORINNE CHING

EDGE OF STYLE. KARLA ALINDAHAO AND MARK NICDAO

INFLATED PAIR. PHOEM BARRANDA AND IRA CRUZ

SHU CIRCUIT. JR ISAAC AND TINA TINIO

BLING COUPLE. BORGY MANOTOC AND ORNUSA CADNESS

COUPLE'S BOOTH. DEREK RAMSEY AND SOULEN HOUSESAFF.

TELE-PARTY PEOPLE. JOHN LLOYD AND JM RODRIGUEZ

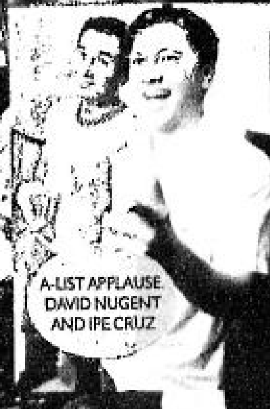
BEAUTY BLING. VICKI BELO AND CRYSTAL HENARES

MEGA-WATTS. PHILIP ABADICIO AND CARLA SIBAL

METRO WEDDINGS AND BEYOND. MONCHU AND ROMINA GONZALEZ

BRYANBOY AND BRYANGIRL. WITH MARCEL CRESPO

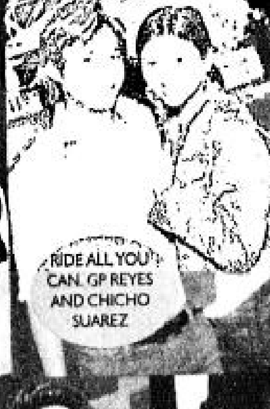
DON'T TOUCH MY POODLE! DARREN TIESTE AND DJ MONTANO


A-LIST APPLAUSE. DAVID NUGENT AND IPE CRUZ

THE NEWLYWEDS. RAFA ALUNAN AND AMINA ARANAZ

CUISINE COUPLE. ERIK CUA AND MICHELLE PAMINTUAN

BEARD AND BANGS. PIP ZORGANI AND CIARA SEVILLA


RIDE ALL YOU CAN. GP REYES AND CHICHO SUAREZ

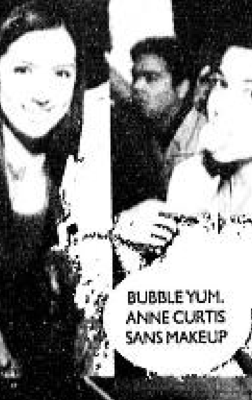
IDEAL MIX. BUBBLES PARAISO AND CHRIS TAN

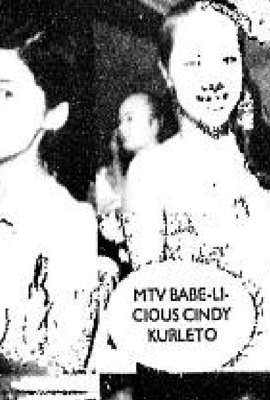
MEMOIRS OF A PEPSI BABE. NICOLE HERNANDEZ

LOUNGERIE PARTYING WITH CELINE LOPEZ

F-ING GORGEOUS AMANDA GRIFFIN

SHE HAS A CD NOW! ARA MINA SINGS TOO

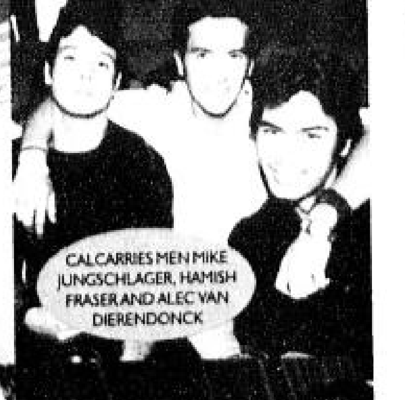

BUBBLE YUM. ANNE CURTIS SANS MAKEUP


MTV BABE-LICIOUS CINDY KURLETO

CHARMING CROONER CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA

R-STYLE. ROSARIO HERRERA

WONDER WESMAN. WESLEY GONZALES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RUSTANS RIDE. JOEL TANTOCO IN ONE PEACE

MATOTO TV. ANNE MATOTO IS HOT HOT HOT

BEST VIBES. BIANCA VALERIO

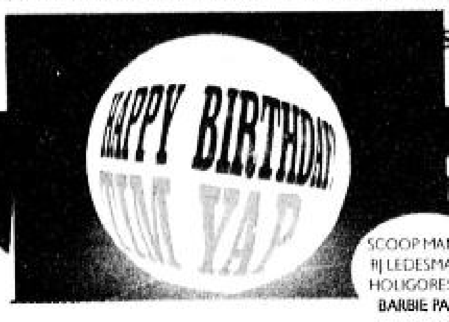
COMING UP ROSES FOR RAJO LAUREL

ROCK CHICK'S CARNIVAL. THE BABES WITH ATOM HENARES

BLING BYTES GEORGINA WILSON BEING BLING'D.

HAPPY BLING DAY TIM!!!

BLING BABES JESSICA GUEVARRA AND TINA PAMINTUAN

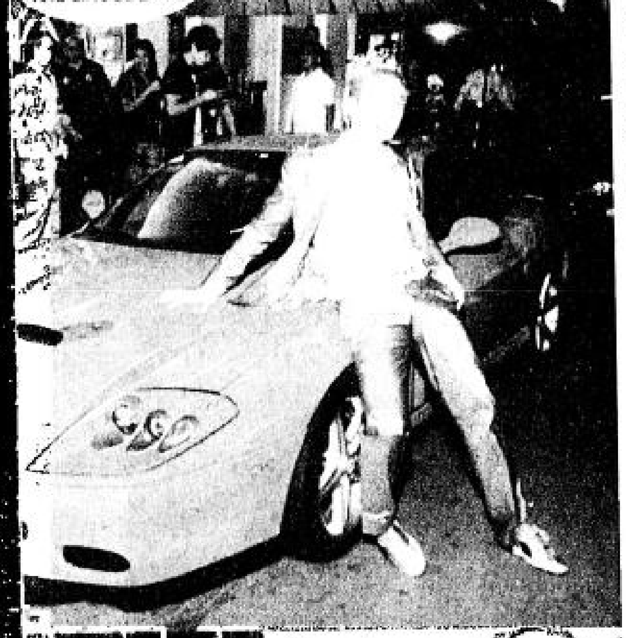


SCOOP MANUAL BJ LEDESMA, KAT HOLIGORES AND BARBIE PARDO

FIT TO BLING. CHINGGAY ANDRADA AND VICTOR CONSUNJI

DIZZY RASCALS VICTOR BASA, CARLOS CONCEPCION, FRANK HOEFSMIT AND JENNA GENIO

PEPE AGAINST THE MACHINE. PEPE DIOKNO AND GINO DE LA PAZ



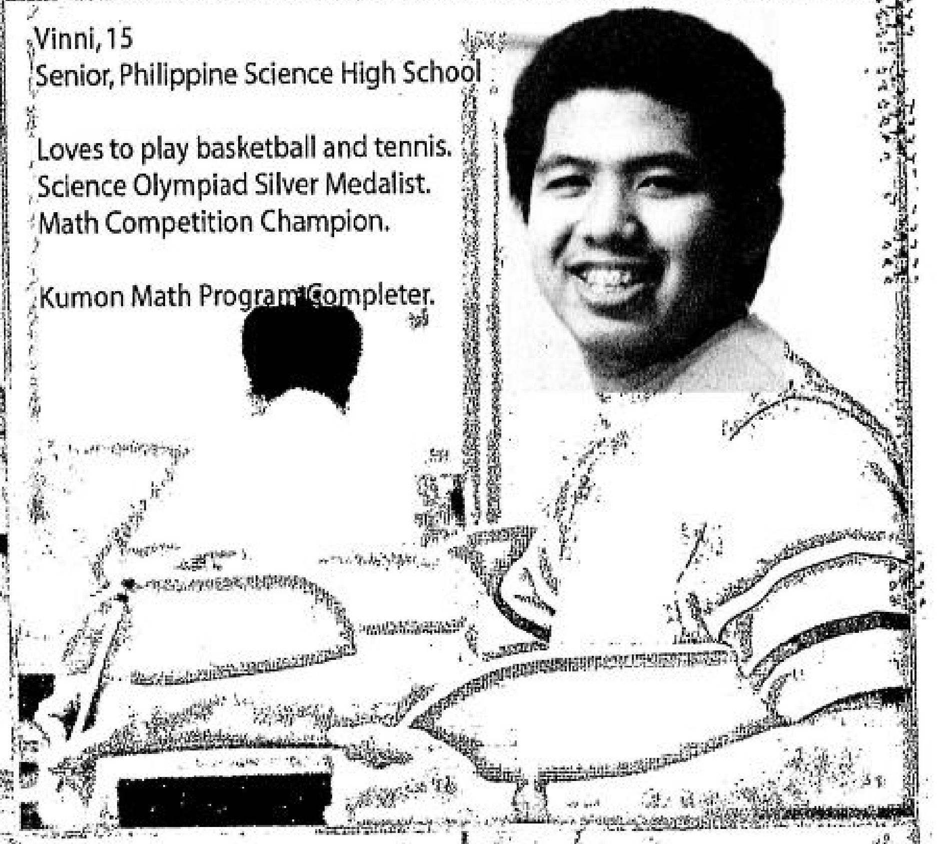
SHU-PER FRIENDS. DAVID MILAN AND XENG ZULUETA

CARNIVAL OF STARS. RUSTOM PADILLA, ANTONIO AQUITANIA AND JOHN ESTRADA

Chiina, 7 years old
Grade 1, PAREF-Woodrose

Pianist,
Piano Teachers' Guild of the Philippines'
Piano Festival 2006.

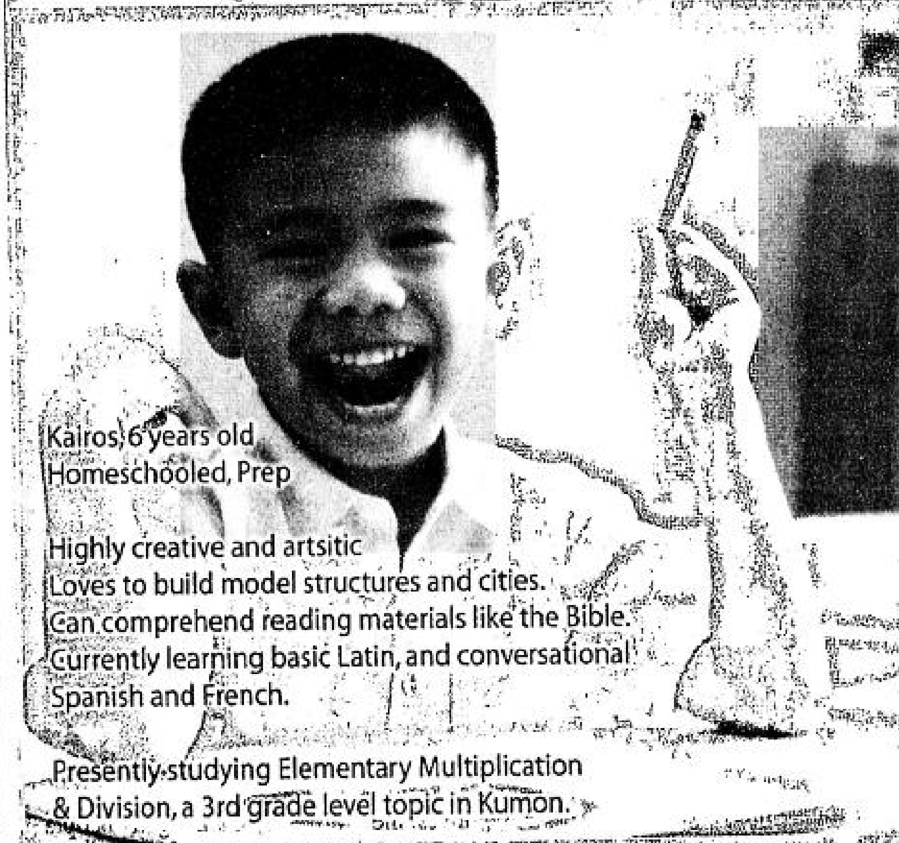
Currently taking up Defining Words through Contextual Clues, Identifying Ideas, Comparing & Contrasting, Grade 2 topics of the Kumon Reading Program.



Vinni, 15
Senior, Philippine Science High School

Loves to play basketball and tennis.
Science Olympiad Silver Medalist.
Math Competition Champion.

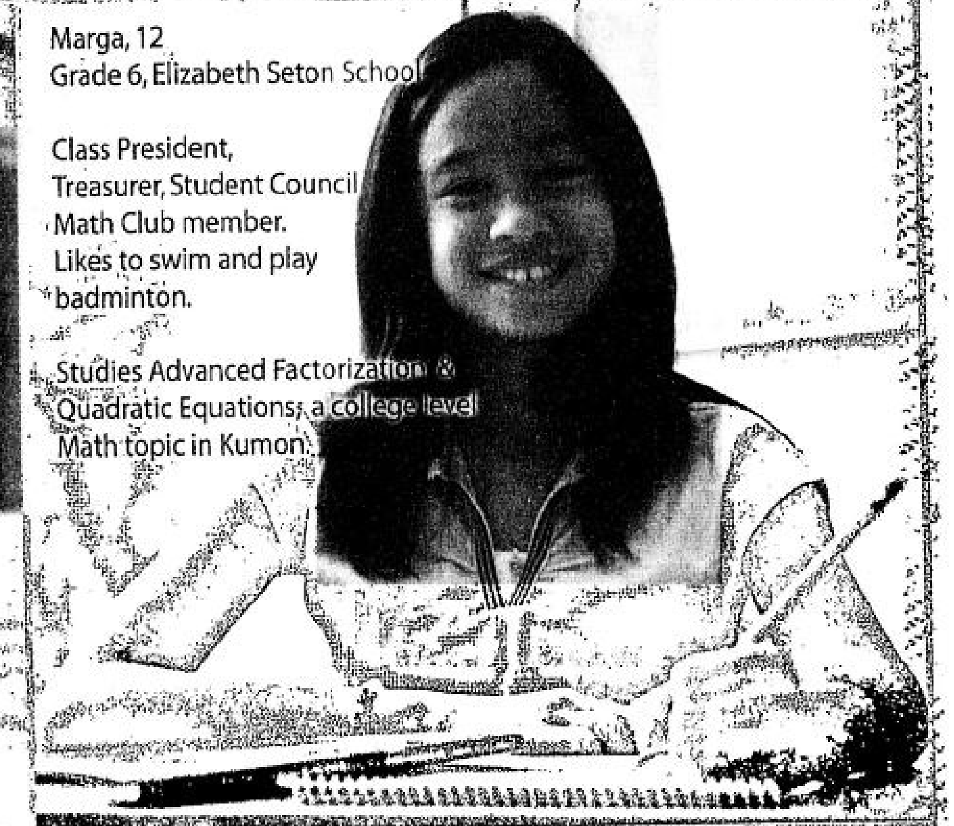
Kumon Math Program Completer.



Kairos, 6 years old
Homeschooled, Prep

Highly creative and artsitic
Loves to build model structures and cities.
Can comprehend reading materials like the Bible.
Currently learning basic Latin, and conversational Spanish and French.

Presently studying Elementary Multiplication & Division, a 3rd grade level topic in Kumon.



Marga, 12
Grade 6, Elizabeth Seton School

Class President,
Treasurer, Student Council
Math Club member.
Likes to swim and play badminton.

Studies Advanced Factorization & Quadratic Equations, a college level Math topic in Kumon.

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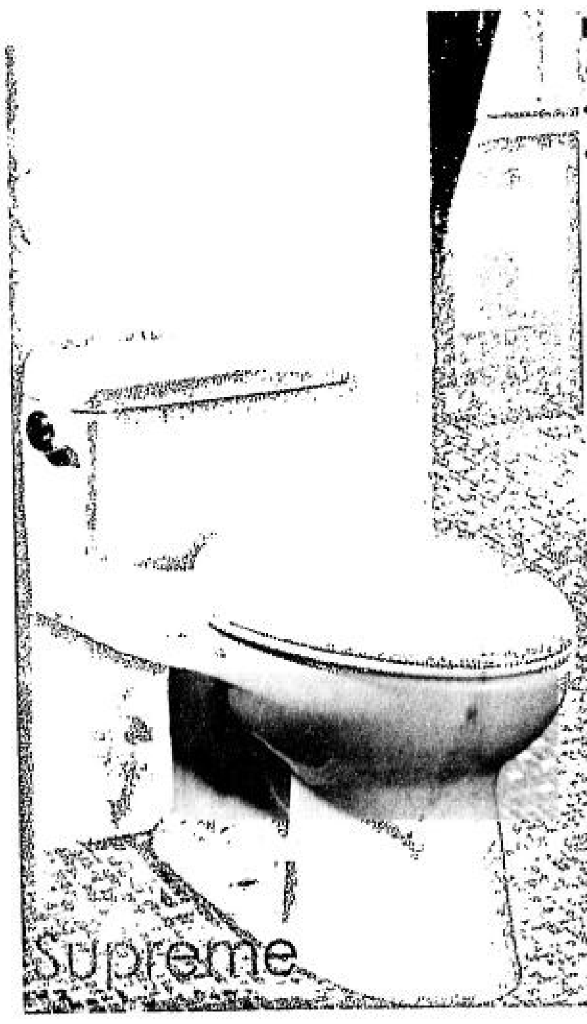

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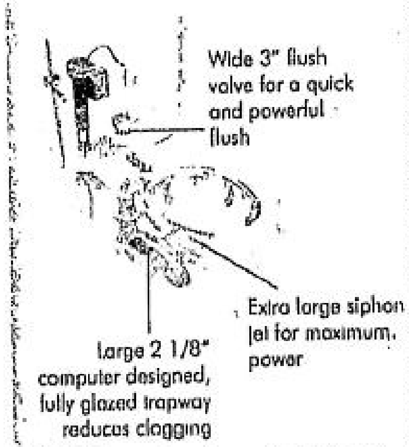

Wide 3" flush valve for a quick and powerful flush
Extra large siphon jet for maximum power
large 2 1/8" computer designed, fully glazed trapway reduces clogging

Break loose at the Carnival!

Photos by Willy Saw, Eddie Boy Escudero, Daniel Tan and Alex Van Hagen

We at Super! turned into shaky and snappy beings after this thrilling stopover

By James Gabrillo

YOU'VE GOT A MONTH LEFT TO channel your inner dauntless daredevil self and escape with your comrades to this exhilarating site at Fort Bonifacio. Euro Star Carnival's the spot where you could be recklessly bold all night and still emerge with your spirits pumped up.

After booming runs around Europe, Hong Kong, China and Bangkok, the carnival's here in the country to grant awesome thrills to gutsy Pinoys until the end of February.

The whirling ride "Booster" gives you a wild rush as you twist in different directions while listening to the booming voice of a mad European dude blurting out stuff. Randomly cheesy! Word of advice: Make sure you ride this last 'cause it'll make you feel quite woozy.

If you got heaps of courage, then test yourself with the "Joker." If you plan on bragging that you've really experienced the Euro Star thrill, then you can't miss this death-defying ride. The advantage: It doesn't make you feel wobbly as compared to the other rides. The drawback: After riding the "Joker," you'll start feeling guilty for all the evil things you've committed and you'd end up resolving to become a better person. Regenerative! Life changing! Someone's overreacting!

If you're planning to acquire attention via, um, screaming hysterically, then stopover to the "Ranger." This nerve-wracking ride provides you an opportunity to come face-to-face with your fear of heights as it takes you soaring up there in the clouds, and then smashing back down at breakneck speed. After executing an intense 360 turn, you'd think it's all over right? Well surprise, surprise—it'll hold you and your fellow stunned chums upside down for a good ten seconds. Who's suddenly jittery?

And then there's the gravity-defying "G Force," another wagon that escalates you up high in the sky. There's also the stirring "Flipper," the triumphant winner of Best Ride That Makes You Feel Dumbstruck and Mystified certificate. It's breaking records with its feat of transforming perfectly hale and hearty kiddos into feeble weaklings by challenging its daring riders' high velocity resilience.

You can also opt to try out the "Frisbee," a ride that swings back and forth akin to a colossal pendulum, reminiscent of Galileo Galilei's experiment on Physics where he noted that a pendulum's swings always take the same amount of time, independently of the amplitude. And yes, I write scientific prose like that on my own.

Euro Star's not just about testing your physical limits with its heart-pounding rides. It also caters to people of all ages with the classic Giant Wheel (which prides itself to be one of the largest in the planet), Bumper Cars, Carousel, and the "Kiddie Flume" Log Ride. Euro Star also enthralls its visitors with diverse shows ranging from Children's Theater to bands performing their hit tunes.

Think that's all? Well, the carnival's opening a groovy fresh attraction for everyone—the "House of Horror" which opens this month.

If you're seeking for adrenaline and non-stop fun, Euro Star Carnival is the right place for a memorable night-out. Experience world-class rides without having to depart the city's boundaries! I sound like an advertisement!

THE EURO STAR CARNIVAL IS OPEN ON MONDAYS TO THURSDAYS FROM 5 P.M. TO 12 MIDNIGHT; FRIDAYS FROM 5 P.M. TO 2 A.M., SATURDAYS FROM 2 P.M. TO 2 A.M.; AND SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS, FROM 2 P.M. TO 12 MIDNIGHT. TICKETS PRICES ARE 300 BUCKS FOR A RIDE-ALL-YOU-CAN TICKET ON MONDAYS TO THURSDAYS, AND 400 BUCKS FOR A RIDE-ALL-YOU-CAN TICKET (ALL INCLUSIVE OF A 50-PESO FOOD COUPON) ON SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS.

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Live fast, die young, such goes the rock 'n roll credo. But what really is the price to pay for those youthful, magical moments?

ROCK 'N' ROLL SAVES LIVES

OUT THE WINDOW

When your reality check bounces

Tals Diaz

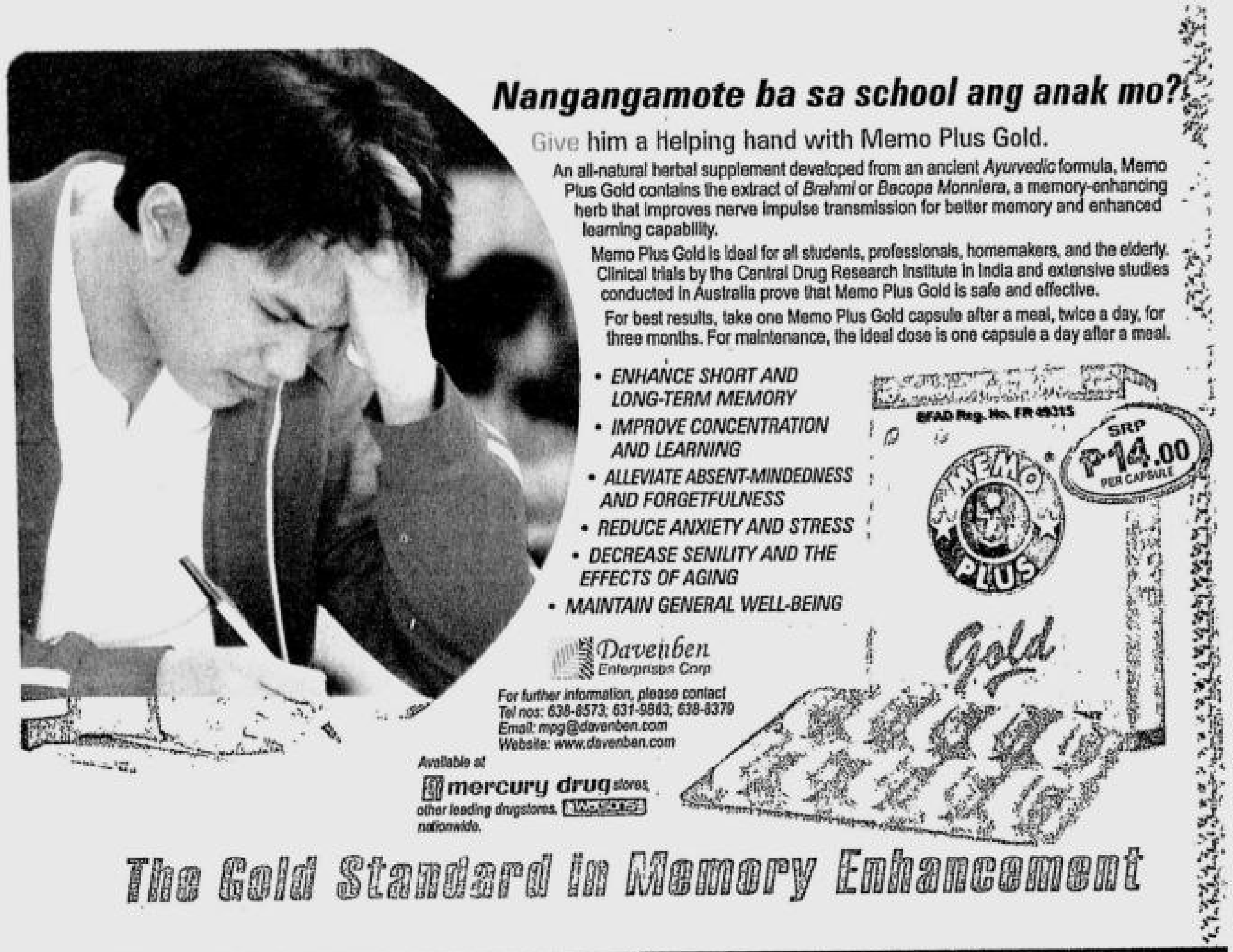
AH, THE morning after.

It's all whiskey under the bridge now, the past night's revelry of eardrum and bass, highly advanced stages of nicotine addiction, and free flowing beer to wash it all down. Yet instead of being tucked away within pillow clouds to resuscitate a brain that feels like it was swallowed by a paper shredder, you're sitting up, wide-eyed awake, clutching your cup of coffee as if your very life depended on it. A computer screen stares blankly at you. For it's only the middle of the work week, and you want to affirm your immortality by proving that you *can* work hard and party harder, as all the cooler-than-thou city owls so proclaim. Yep, *the weekday is the new weekend!* you shout loudly in your head (but not too loud so as not to lose more cerebrospinal fluids). Then as the last bubbles of the Berroca fizzle into your bottled water, you realize that your *rakenrol* lifestyle has a price, other than a liver screaming for a substitute. You open your wallet and there you have it. Or rather, there you don't.

Cue in soundtrack by Cake: *Ah tell me, how do you afford your rock 'n roll lifestyle?*

The formula is quite simple, at least according to my friend, a band manager, who continues to amaze me as to

WHEN/ D2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For best results, take one Memo Plus Gold capsule after a meal, twice a day, for three months. For maintenance, the ideal dose is one capsule a day after a meal.

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- IMPROVE CONCENTRATION AND LEARNING
- ALLEVIATE ABSENT-MINDEDNESS AND FORGETFULNESS
- REDUCE ANXIETY AND STRESS
- DECREASE SENILITY AND THE EFFECTS OF AGING
- MAINTAIN GENERAL WELL-BEING

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Be bold not bald

Awaken from the nightmare called MPHL or Male Pattern Hair Loss. It is caused by increased levels of DHT (dihydrotestosterone) in the scalp[1]. MPHL is characterized by loss of visible hair over areas of your scalp[2]. This is a progressive condition and chances are it will get worse as time goes by if left untreated[1], unless you will be bold enough to do something about MPHL.

Research indicates that seeking early medical treatment can slow down continued hair loss and in some cases hair can even be regrown[1].

Ask your dermatologist about ways with which you can fight male pattern hair loss.

Don't lose sleep over MPHL. You just have to be bold, so you don't have to be bald.

you can reverse male pattern hair loss.[1,*]

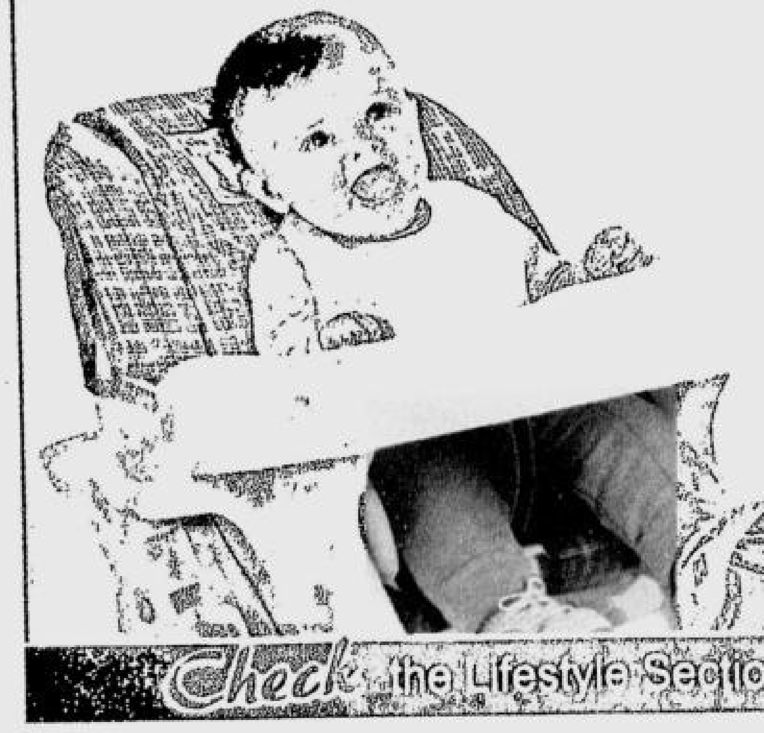
For more information on the ProHAIR program call hotline number 878-6338.
You may also send inquiries to fax no. 813-1172 or email: inquire@prohair-info.com

ProHAIR is a Healthcare Information Program of MSD in cooperation with the Philippine Dermatological Society

ProHAIR

Reference : 1. Libecco J and Bergfeld WF. Expert Opin Pharmacother 2004;5(4):933-940
2. Kaufman K. Eur J Dermatol 2002 12:38-49

* In studies, hair has been regrown in MPHL patients, but individual results may vary from patient to patient.
12-2005-PPC-05-PH-4005-AD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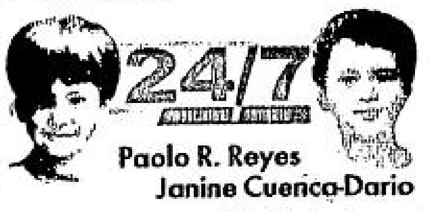
Check the Lifestyle Section every other week for the latest in SM Advantage promos and highlights.

La Vida Local

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE 24/7 made the wearying trudge to Malate, but last Friday we decided to brave the crush of traffic along Roxas Boulevard (somebody failed to mention there was a Manny Pacquiao parade underway!) to attend a private party at Vida [612 Julio Nakpil St., Malate, Manila, phone: 523-4561], a modern resto-bar which opened at the site of the old People's Palace.

A far cry from its former occupant, we were greeted inside by a row of cozy couches (each with their own shisha) and two big-screen projectors that pumped out everything from cutting-edge animation to a few risqué electronic dance videos. It was definitely a refreshing change of scene, and a cool audio-visual experience—one that will surely keep you entertained even when the conversation runs dry.



Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

Kebab and Wine Festival @ Queens, Feb. 8

Both vegetarians and meat lovers now have a Wednesday night treat to look forward to: vegan-friendly Indian restaurant Queens [146-B Jupiter St., Makati, phone: 895-1316 or 8951816] holds their monthly Kebab and Wine Festival from 6 p.m. onwards. For only P600, you get to feast on 15 kebabs (six of which are vegetarian, naturally) and a wide selection of red and white wines. Now that's what we call a sweet ... er ... spicy deal.

SPIT @ Mag:net Cafe, Feb. 9, 16 and 23

They're baaack! Catch celebrated comic troupe SPIT (a.k.a. The Silly People's Improv Theater), led by their 32-year-old ringmaster Gabe Mercado, throw hilarious punchlines on the spot at their recurring weekly gig at Mag:Net Cafe [Agcor Bldg., 335 Katipunan Ave., Q.C., phone: 435-2631] every Thursday. Get ready to snigger, snort, giggle, chuckle, chortle, and cackle all at once. We promise: Their guffaw-inducing stints will surely leave your stomach in stitches.

Commonplace @ Lumiere Gallery, until Feb. 28

"I like to go to strange places and find familiar feelings of home," enthused photographer Miguel Nacianceno during the opening of his exhibit, "Commonplace," at Lumiere Gallery [Locsin Bldg., Ayala cor. Makati Ave., Makati, phone: 812-2976] last Saturday. Inspired by the tradition of Stephen Shore and Walker Evans, Miguel deftly captures all that is unique and extraordinary from the everyday and commonplace. In this haunting series, he explores the idea of a wanderer within this landscape, revealing the isolation and loneliness that permeate contemporary suburban life.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

Feb. 4, Saturday

Metamorphosis with DJ Michael Hsu & Radha at Government; Dicta License, Bagetsafonik, Analog, and Ciudad at Saguijo; Nyoy Volante & Nina at Music Museum; NCCA's Ani ng Sining: Dance Performances at Shangri-La Plaza; Freshly Squeezed at Citrus; DJs Scratchmark & Bliss at Prince of Jaipur; Twentysomething Saturdays at Mezze; Supermodel Saturdays at Embassy Club; Pump Saturdays at Jill's; Fluxxe at 6 Underground; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; So Icey Saturdays at Absinth; Spy at 70s Bistro; Massive Saturdays at Bed; Campusition Night at at Mag:Net Café Katipunan

Feb. 5, Sunday

Once on This Island at RCBC Plaza; Ani ng Sining at Rizal Park; 31st Bamboo Organ Festival at Las Piñas City; Bloody Mary Sundays at Absinth; CouchLab DJs at Bamboo Lounge; Acoustic Night at Phi Bar; Filipinas: Isa Lorenzo exhibit at CCP Main Gallery

ENJOY grade A improv with SPIT

Feb. 6, Monday

Up Dharma Down at Mag:Net Café Katipunan; 31st Bamboo Organ Festival at Las Piñas City; DJ Patch at Absinth; I Don't Like Mondays! with DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Acoustic Night at Temple; CouchLab DJs at Bamboo Lounge; Wine Buffet at The Lounge; Noel Cabangon at 70s Bistro; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar

Feb. 7, Tuesday

Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Ethan band at Temple; 10th Street, Best Before, Forgetting Luna and Naima at Saguijo; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Lynn Sherman at 70s Bistro; Willy Wanka's Music Factory with Joffy Cruz at Gweilos Makati; Velvet with DJs JD & One Nyt Stand at Absinth; Wine Buffet at The Lounge; CouchLab DJs at Bamboo Lounge; Spirit of '67 at Captain's Bar; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah

Feb. 8, Wednesday

Faces Nights with Boyet Almazan at Mezze; Kebab & Wine Night at Queens; Absolutely Flying at Citrus; Hiraya, Suspicious Character, Out of Body Special, Whatevurittakes, Yang, and Coffeeshop Conspiracies at Saguijo; Asin at 70s Bistro; MYMP at Suburbia; DJs Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Patch at Absinth; DJs Mars Miranda & Johnyverse at Embassy Club; CouchLab DJs at Uva; Wicked Wednesdays at Temple; Acoustic Night at 6 Underground; Way Back Wednesdays at Bed; The Impressions at The Lounge

Feb. 9, Thursday

The Dorques, Sleepyheads, and Balloon Derby at Saguijo; Bamboo at Metro Concert Bar; Fluxxe: Whatever Thursdays at Manila DJ Club; SPIT at Mag:Net Café Katipunan; DJ Boyet Almazan at Flamma; Zodiac Thursdays with Benjo Marquez at Citrus; Rock n' Rhythm with Candles at Absinth; Supahstar DJ Thursdaze at Bed; DJ Brit at Government; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; CouchLab DJs at Bamboo Lounge; Joey Bautista at The Lounge; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Adjundie at 70s Bistro; MYMP at Virgin Café

Feb. 10, Friday

Decadance with Boyet Almazan at Jill's; Deep House with DJ Benjo Marquez at Mezze; Julia Duncan at Discovery Suites' Serendipity Lounge; HouseBeats with DJ Mark de Leon at Mati; Monkey Spank, Severo, and Salamin at Saguijo; Fashion Fridays with GP Reyes & Karl Ty at Citrus; Vibe Fridays at Wasabi; MyHOUSE at M Café; DJ Owens Sun at Embassy Club; Calypso DJs at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Patch & James McCranie at Absinth; Bam del Valle at Government; Jive Fridays at Temple; The Jerks at 70s Bistro; Kimosave & Bliss at Prince of Jaipur; Gogo Fridays at Bed; Shanice at The Lounge; Salamin at Streetscape

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 for Globe and 209 for Smart. Log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.

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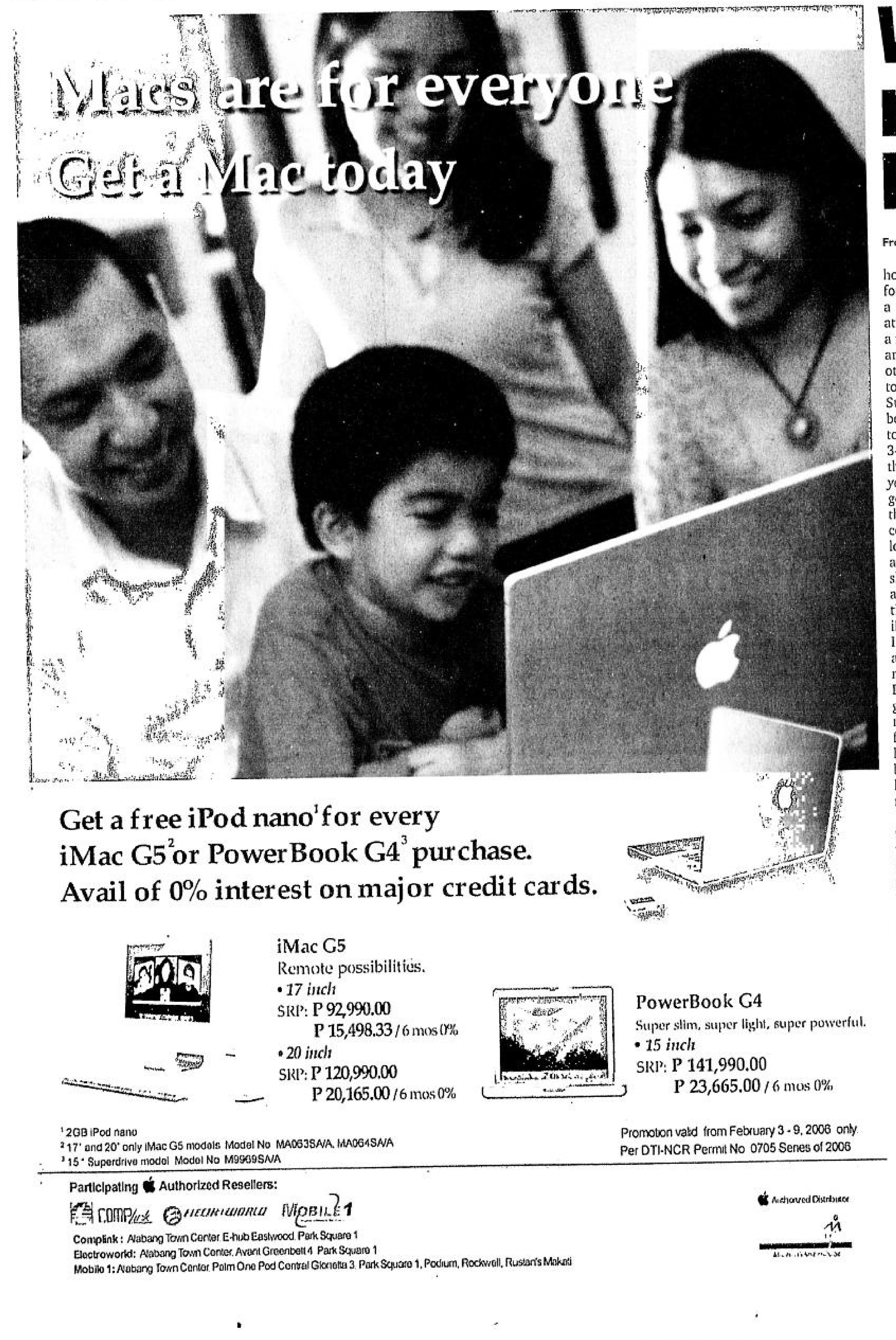
Think of it as American Idol for hoteliers.

Forty successful applicants will undergo a free one month of intensive Food and Beverage training and the necessary skills for the areas where they will be assigned. At the end of the training period, the candidates will undergo a one week On-The-Job training wherein they would be observed and the top 20 candidates will be selected. The successful trainees will undergo a further weeklong training on customer service, personality enhancement and communication skills prior to the actual deployment in the work areas. Those who do not make it on the top 20 list will be endorsed to the hotels' accredited manpower agencies and shall remain as part of the hotels' pool of talents.

Don't forget your resume (with picture please) and cover letter.

For more information, please contact Human Resources or Claire Delarmente at 551-5555.



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When your reality check bounces

From page D1

how she can show up everyday for her day job and still maintain a perfect after-hours attendance at a favorite indie hotspot. It's all a matter of grade school addition and subtraction, she revealed the other day, opening an Excel sheet to show me her weekly budget. Subtract from the food budget, because apparently it is possible to survive on instant noodles and 3-in-1 coffee for lunch. Then add the amount to the party staples of *yosi* and alcohol. Since she got together with a new boyfriend over the holidays, that meant she could minus a bit from her gas allowance. But the fact that she got a new boyfriend also meant that she had to add to her cell phone allocation. Whatever amount that was left over went to her iPod Nano fund.

It was so simple and elegant I almost shed a tear. Except for one glaring fact that made all the difference: A black hole left in her bank account, at least until the next paycheck.

My free-spirited friend would then shrug and say that hell, we're young and single and thus don't need to be saving up yet for some kid's future college education, so it makes perfect sense to invest your hard-earned wages on an enviable nightlife. Putting a premium on fun—now that is what being young is all about. Rock on.

... Ah, tell me. Your liver pays dearly now for youthful magic moments ...

That trump card—Youth—usually works for me in drowning out that inner voice of logic or a guilty conscience that creeps up once in a while. It works because I'm usually surrounded by party-harder, good vibes groupies who knew how to balance their work and play equations. We loved life, we loved the nightlife sometimes a little bit more, and as long as we weren't in debt and had track marks on our arms, we had a good thing going for us.

Recently, however, I was assailed with an abnormal dose of reality, from a childhood friend who did not get this "rebellious" approach to life.

... Aging black leather and hospital bills ...

I met up with her recently at a celebration that called for a reunion of old friends. As reunions go, we exchanged updates on each other's lives. When the night wore on and it was about the right hour to head out and chase the sun, she declined my invitation as she complained about her various aches and pains and her sleepiness. Nothing a little good music and a rum coke can't fix, I joked. My friend then turned to me and said, "I'm getting too old for this, this *lola* is going to bed." Fair enough, but what really stumped me was an unexpected e-mail I got from her a few days later.

ROCK 'N' ROLL SAVES LIVES

In the e-mail, she relayed her billions of concerns. About my health, the condition of my heart, my brain, my liver, and not to mention such "senseless" spending demanded by my lifestyle. It was about time, she said, to start worrying about my future. The words of Garcia Marquez suddenly echoed in my head: truly, age is not how old you are, but how old you feel. At that moment, she made me feel old.

That was when I realized what the real price to pay was for indulging in endless nocturnal revelries. What added up in the end was not just a hefty bill, but the years. And so someday, in the distant, faraway future, I would not have the luxury of time to give excuses that excess isn't rebellion. Someday, I'd have to deal with such "matters of consequence" that The Little Prince had no clue about. As such, my real fear was not in getting old, but feeling too old to have fun.

Such is the price to pay if you choose to live in the now, from "moment to magic moment" as the song goes. You tend to believe that tomorrow never comes.

Are we ready for the Big time?

By Pepe Diokno

POP!
ZIING!
Big Time
Balang araw
NOW SHOWING

ENTERTAINMENT IS WEIRD. There's a big money-making, capitalist, cutthroat, aspect to it. But behind it is a lot of heart and passion. Without this heart and passion it won't survive.

The people who supply the heart and passion are the artists. Though it seems like the Peso is at the center of the business, without artists, uh, duh—death for everyone! (Echo!)

It's a symbiotic relationship we can't deny—yes, artists can't eat without moolah. Producers can't produce without artists.

But the line between art-making and money-making is pretty thin these days. Pop artists are here to sell stuff, not sing stuff. Few of our "creative people" are here to innovate—most of them are here to ride fads.

This is why we still make the same movies over and over again. This is why a lot of bands all sound alike.

(Starving) artists

But this past year, we've seen a lot of people try to break this cycle. We've seen lots of works that break convention; people who innovate and have found their own formula—you've probably seen many of them on the pages of this paper.

It's interesting how much talent oozes out of small society. But it's also sad to know how little awareness there is of this talent.

There are many ways to see this:

You can say there's a lack of support from mainstream media—or mainstream producers. Both of these are true. (Few movies like "Maximo Oliveros" get the support of Star Cinema—and are released widely, have TV ads... and a music video by Jamie Rivera. Shudder.)

Government support is small too. But then we shouldn't really expect much from like, um, the government. Cough.

There is an unbelievable mass of competition from foreign products. There are maybe, 10 Hollywood movies for every one Filipino movie. Advertising budgets are one thousand times bigger. So distribution companies are forced to market these movies more than local movies—doesn't it make you want to cry like a little girl? (Or not)

We compete!

But we are so able to compete with foreign products. We ooze with talent. If money were not an issue, and it came down to concepts, Pinoy movies would absolutely kick ass.

That is if we put our minds to it. And if we believed in ourselves. Snaps for us.

Besides, Filipinos know what Filipinos like. We're supposed to understand our own market.

But why is it so hard for us to succeed in our own market?

Aside from the economic reasons above, it could be two other things:

1) Like the government, artists are so out of touch with the demands of the masses.

2) The *masa* is... bad. (Elitist! Elitist!)

Out of rich

Do the masses really want to see a movie about Iya Villania pelting boulders? Do they want to see a movie about a kidnapping gone awry?

Producers like generalizing audiences. Like, "*Masa sila*, they won't get that!" I've heard that a lot. It's sad—because they keep spoonfeeding audiences crap—they don't let the audience grow.

People who do art—and I think anyone in this country—must remember that their primary goal must be to help elevate our society. Artists—filmmakers, musicians, painters, um, moving statues—are here for a reason. Pure entertainment is a reason but it doesn't contribute to the long-term development of society.

I say they're out of touch with society because they don't give society its needs. Entertainment is a need, yes. But a bigger need is growth. A lot of our artists don't give that.

Other artists—or crowds of artists—tend to give an air of un-rich-ableness. Like, "If you don't get it, f*** you. You don't deserve my movie." And that's OK. I mean, you please yourself when you make movies.

But again, works of art are more than just j*rking off—they're supposed to be more than self pleasure.

Artists need to be patient teachers—we can't expect people to understand at the snap of a finger. And we can't leave our audience behind.

B*tching about the masses

On the other hand, there have been great movies, with great intentions, that don't do well at the box office.

We can talk about how selective, and narrow, and shallow our local audience is. But I don't think it's that the Filipino audience is a dumb one. Think of them as ... a hard-up one.

You have to think of every ticket as an investment—of it being an extension of their blood and tears. They are investing on something that will entertain them. They wanna be sure with the P120 they're spending.

The masses see film as entertainment—and that is the responsibility of moviemakers. You have to connect with the audience. Like, who else do you make movies for but the audience?

Filipinos connect to emotions—and we will probably connect to films intellectually if somebody tried.

Anyway—there are a lot of things that keep fresh, young, innovative artists from shining. But we should remember that making a permanent dent in society is a slow process. It's going to involve a lot of hits and misses.

Lately a lot of our artists have gotten things right. The music landscape is expanding—there are new forms of different genres, and fusions of them. There are movies like, "Maxi" and the f-ing funny, "Big Time." There are great concepts out there.

There are millions of ideas in this country we probably haven't even discovered.

Super! is sure that many beautiful movies, and great music will come out this year. And we can't guarantee that the masses are going to line up for it.

But we can guarantee that little by little, people will start to watch—or start to listen. And the minority now, may become the majority in the future.

> **The line between art-making and money-making is pretty thin these days. Pop artists are here to sell stuff, not sing stuff. Few of our 'creative people' are here to innovate—most of them are here to ride fads**

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If God is a DJ ... then iGod

More of these awesome things called iDJ parties! More!

By Pepe Diokno

OH GREAT, PEOPLE ARE gonna think I'm a blasphemous ogre from hell. (And I'm not saying I'm not.)

Last night I dreamt I was on the phone speaking rapid-fire French. And ... the night before that I dreamt I was in Mati last December winning the iDJ search. (I found my point!) It was a dream, of course. A house music-playing Ally Mabamba did. Damn.

I think all of us have dreams of being on a stage, playing music for other people. We all have rock star dreams, or DJ dreams. (OK, some obese people from Las Vegas have Britney Spears dreams. Moving on ...) But if you're like me, I don't play anything, chords and stuff seem like long trigonometry equations. And DJ equipment are like, Maya stone calendars.

Not a lot of us have patience to learn stuff. Or it may just be me, with my undiagnosed ADD. But this shouldn't stop us from making lovely DJ music. It is our responsibility to share with the world the beats and wonderful rhythms in our head! (Maybe not.)

Enter iDJ!

Motorola's given us a solution: Get a ROKR phone. Put songs in ROKR phone. Play with songs using MotoMixer. Plug into speakers. Ooh ...

The finals at Mati was awesome—seeing all these people getting so creative with phones! (One of the criteria was how the DJ "maneuvered the music.")

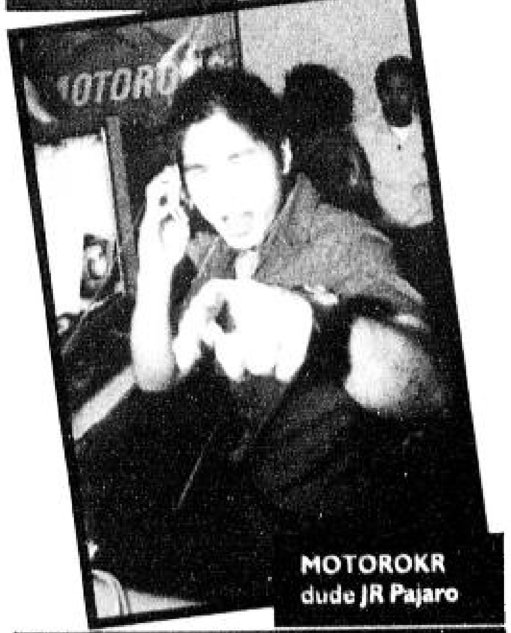
See, it's more than just playing stuff. Like, anyone can do that at home. The art is morphing, blending, shaping music.

Fun stuff—so fun, things start to blur, and mix, blend, and shape. (I promise I'm not on anything.) So it's good there's gonna be more iDJ part-ays!

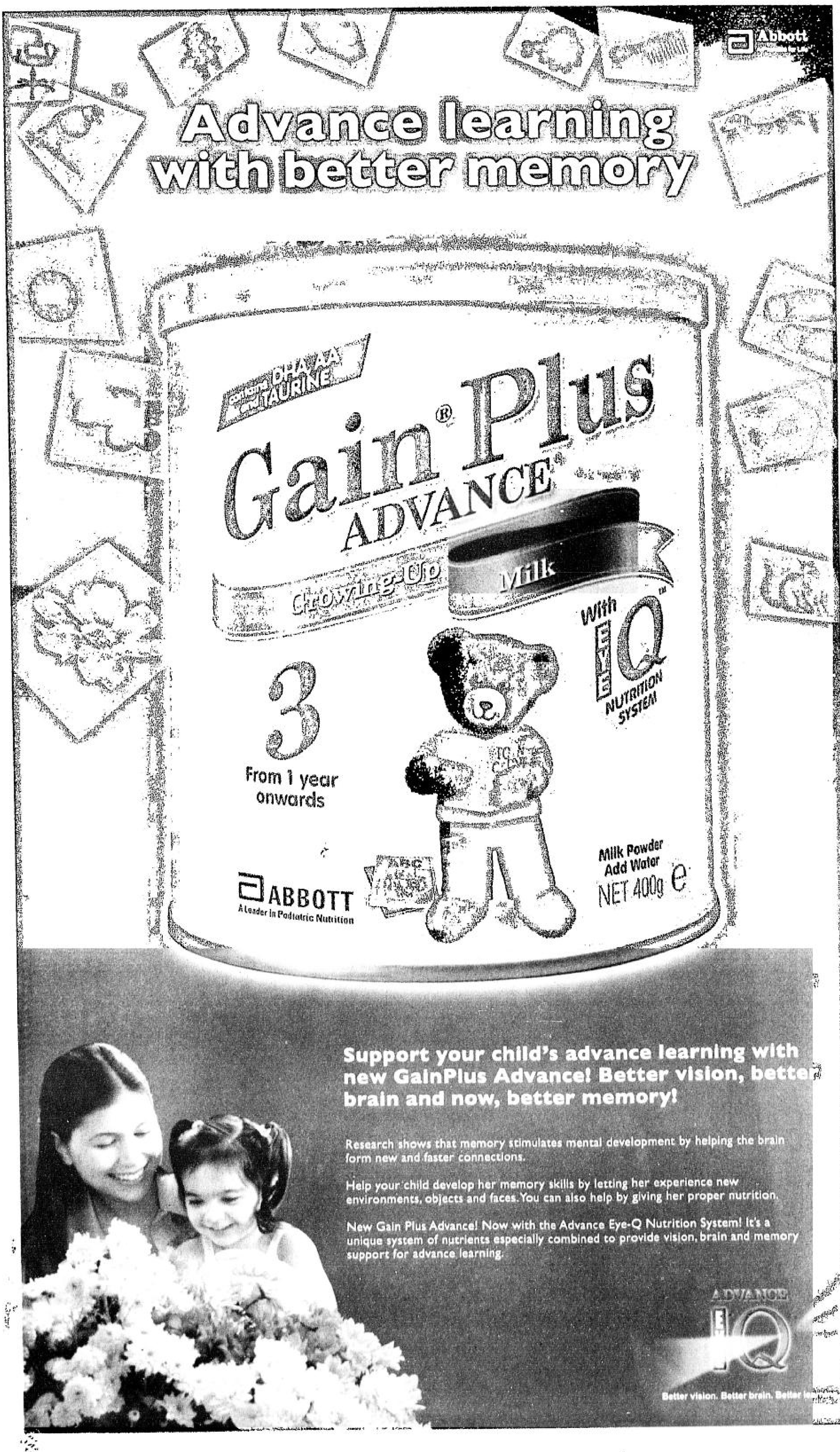
Moto's doing it again—in March, this time with celebrities. (Guess that leaves me out. Wink, wink—I must stop promoting myself.)

In the mean time, it's practice time for all of us. And it doesn't have to be on a ROKR phone. Let's find our own instruments, and do things out of the ordinary. Let's find our own thing.

HOUSE winner Ally belts it out.



MOTOROKR dude JR Pajaro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